



Newtownhamilton High School

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Dear Parent/Guardian

As COVID-19 progresses, we are now starting to experience pupils having to self-isolate which obviously means a further disruption to their teaching and learning. Parents and pupils will have expectations on how remote/blended learning will take place and so the purpose of my letter is to provide clarification on the educational provision available to our pupils during periods of sickness and self-isolation, as identified in the following 3 groups:

Group 1 - Individual pupils who test positive

First and foremost, pupils who have tested positive for COVID-19 should take time to rest and recover from this terrible virus and not worry about falling behind with school work. I am confident that they will catch up on the work (with the support of their teachers) when they feel able to do so.

Group 2 - Individual pupils who have to self-isolate

For individual pupils having to self-isolate, the Department of Education has advised that parents should talk directly to the school about the provision of education materials. It is noted that our pupils should already have hard copies of a range of learning materials from different subject areas which were distributed in early September. These booklets can be used to recap on previous work covered in class and also to progress to the next stage of learning.

Our teachers wish to support self-isolating pupils as much as is reasonably possible and therefore may share some learning materials via Google Classroom. However, it is important to stress that teachers will be continuing to teach their normal classes during the school day so expectations from parents and pupils must be realistic. In this day of modern technology, self-isolating pupils are strongly encouraged to communicate with peers about learning that has taken place during the school day.

Group 3 - Year Group Bubbles that have to self-isolate

In the event of a year group bubble having to self-isolate (or indeed a full school closure), our teachers will aim to provide "a near normal school day experience" for pupils remotely (via Google Classroom) based on their daily timetable. For example, if a pupil has 2 periods of Geography on a Tuesday, they will be provided with 2 periods of work for that day.

To conclude, I am hopeful that any disruption to teaching and learning in the near future will be minimal, however it is important that we have contingency plans in place in the event that they are required.

Yours faithfully

Neil Megaw
Principal