

11 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**RE: Children of Critical Workers – Updated Department for Education Guidance**

I am writing to update you regarding the Department for Education guidance regarding Critical Workers.

This was updated on Friday last week because schools have seen an increase in pupils attending compared to the March lockdown. This is the same at Wey Valley Academy.

**Given that coronavirus infections are rising nationally and locally, I am asking you to keep your child at home if you can.** This is in line with the [updated guidance](#) issued to schools. Thank you to those of you who have already been able to support us in this way.

The latest figures suggest that we could have up to 152 students attending school. The logistics of having this number of students on site whilst delivering a complete online timetable and with staff being asked to work from home, self-isolating or off ill are challenging.

The school has 5 computer rooms for students to access the remote learning provided by the staff, that can accommodate 15 students in each with social distancing in place. We are now having increasing numbers of students attend across all year groups, so students will be required to wear face coverings in classrooms (if the number exceeds 15 to protect them as we cannot guarantee social distancing with the increasing numbers).

We understand that this is a very challenging situation for parents and that there are individual circumstances for families that necessitates sending some students into school. We are here to support you as much as we can and the health and safety of our students is paramount. We are doing all that we can within the school to reduce the risk for students, however the more students that we have in school the higher the possible risks for both students and staff.

We would therefore ask you to kindly consider the need for your son/daughter to attend at this time. We are able to loan students laptops if they do not have access to one at home. We are delighted with the feedback that we have received from both students and parents with regards to the remote learning provision that the staff are providing for the students and engagement has been excellent. It is therefore essential that students only come into school to receive access to the remote learning if it is impossible for students to remain at home.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Lydford [lydfordp@weyvalley-academy.co.uk](mailto:lydfordp@weyvalley-academy.co.uk) or the Heads of Year, if you need to discuss any aspect of your child's attendance at school at this time.

Yours faithfully



Rob Russell - Principal

**Wey Valley Academy**

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education

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