27 November 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

When the National Lockdown ends on 2 December, Hertsmere, Watford and Three Rivers will move into Tier 2. This seems a timely moment for an update on the continuing challenges of Covid for schools.

The year group 'bubbles' at The Grange continue to work well, though we have a slightly larger number of children self-isolating in Years 8 and 9 this week. One thing that I would like to re-emphasise is the importance of wearing a mask in corridors and all communal areas inside the school. I am sorry to report that a minority of children are still failing to do so. We will continue to contact parents but please do reiterate this to your son or daughter. Of course there are one or two children who have valid health exemptions and a doctor's note but they are the only ones to whom an exception can apply. We have noticed that on PE days pupils often leave their masks in their blazer pocket from the day before, so if you could remind your son or daughter to double check on PE days that would be a great help.

It is vital, too, that all pupils travelling to and from school on public transport wear a mask at all times and that everyone goes straight home rather than congregating in groups around shops etc.

With the arrival of our Christmas tree we are beginning to feel quite festive and it should look magnificent with all the trimmings applied by the start of next week. Please follow us on Twitter @TheGrangeFA if you would like to see its progress.

Just an early heads-up that on the last day of term, 18 December, the school day will end between 12.15pm and 12.30pm and there will be no lunch service, although food will be available at break-time. Further details will follow shortly.

Finally a HUGE 'thank you' to everyone who has contributed so generously to our winter collection for the local foodbank: with over thirty crates collected so far, your generosity has been overwhelming.

Best wishes and stay safe,

Yours faithfully

Dr Philip Hills
Principal
The Grange Academy