



11 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been closely monitoring the number of positive COVID-19 cases within our school community since the beginning of the term. It will come as no surprise, that the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 are increasing in school. NHS Test and Trace may be in touch with you in the coming days if your child is identified as a close contact to a confirmed case - I will remind you that school does not pass personal contact details on to NHS Test and Trace.

Winter is fast approaching and many of us are aware that illness, COVID-related and otherwise, will continue on the rise. Given this, I am bringing to your attention some 'control measures', that are in place presently and alert you to other actions I may take in the near future to safeguard the well-being of students and staff:

- We have changed the movement flow of year groups around the building, to reduce the mixing of year groups.
- We have restricted the mixing of some year groups at breaktimes.
- We have installed co2 monitors in some areas of school to assess air flow and air quality.
- We have increased ventilation in some areas of school.
- We have minimised large group gatherings of staff and reduced the occupancy capacity of office spaces.
- We have suspended face to face student assemblies and switched them to virtual 'gatherings'.

Today, I am asking for all parents to increase the frequency of Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) at home, to help reduce the number of infectious students in school. I am also asking that parents ensure they book a PCR test for their child if their child has symptoms of COVID-19, or they record a positive LFT. I would also ask that parents consider booking a PCR test for any family members in the house who may have been in contact with a sibling with a positive PCR test result for COVID-19

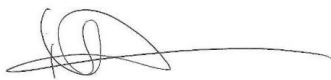
In the near future, I may request that face coverings are worn in social spaces, such as corridors. Indeed, I may also recommend their use in classrooms at a later date. Of course, we have other measures we may need to take, but we await further guidance from the DfE and Government on how best to manage the continuing issue of the pandemic in schools. Any further actions I may request will of course be communicated with you as soon as possible.

We will be evaluating other 'in school' events and considering how we can best manage these to ensure we can run them as close to normal as possible, whilst keeping everyone safe. This will include our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday, 21 October. At present, this event will run face to face, but with some restrictions on movement in place. Further details will be shared with you closer to the day itself.

The actions outlined above are preventative at this point, meaning that we are not reacting to a significant outbreak of COVID-19 in school. These measures are simply designed to reduce the chances of that happening the best way we can, whilst maintaining a safe school that remains open during the winter months. Finally, I will politely remind parents to continue encouraging their children to practise good hand and respiratory hygiene, both in school, at home and when they are out with friends.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support of the school during these challenging times.

Yours faithfully



Matthew West
Principal