

8 December 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

Over recent days we have been made aware of several students in our school community who have tested positive for COVID 19.

I would like to take time to reassure you that we have taken all necessary actions since hearing this information to keep all students at our school as safe as possible. The school have consulted with the local authority and we are introducing some additional controls within certain parts of the school to reduce the chances of further spread of the virus. Our school risk assessment will be updated to reflect the changes in practice.

- For the next 2 weeks, we will introduce the following controls:
  - Hand Sanitiser at entrances to all rooms and one way system in place
  - Max ventilation within classrooms and corridors
  - Testing in staff/ students
  - Face Coverings to be worn in all communal areas for staff when social distancing cannot take place
  - Further enhanced cleaning
  - Increased testing advised for risk assessed cohort of staff/ students
  - Face Coverings to be worn in communal areas pupils

Following this period, we will review these additional measures.

Currently, the most common strain of virus in the UK is called the Delta variant and we have seen a steep rise in COVID-19 cases recently. Evidence suggests the Delta variant spreads more easily than previous strains. It is important that we are vigilant and follow public health messages to stop the spread of the virus

To keep our school community safe and our students in school there are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

All secondary students should have received home test kits from school. Regular asymptomatic testing will help to reduce the chance of the virus spreading. We are taking this opportunity to remind students to do a rapid test twice a week (every 3 to 4 days) to check if they have the virus. If students test positive and self-isolate, it helps stop the virus spreading.

#### **Y10 and Y11**

Due to a further increase of cases in Years 10 and 11 we have consulted with the Local Authority and have been advised the following:

Students in these year groups are recommended to conduct daily lateral flow tests for 5 days. Parents can access home lateral flow kits either from school or on the following link: [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests).

Parents should report results on the government website (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>), but there is no need for parents to report negative results to school.

Whilst it is a strong recommendation from Public Health to follow the guidance above, if parents choose not to, children will not be prohibited from attending school.

#### **How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

- There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19
  - wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
  - use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
  - wash your hands as soon as you get home
  - cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
  - put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

#### **Further Information**

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

#### **Symptoms of COVID 19**

- The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:
  - new continuous cough and/or
  - high temperature and/or
  - a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.



If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 119.

Yours sincerely,



Rachael Fidler

Principal

