



16th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have managed to have a restful weekend. You may be aware that a Year 11 pupil tested positive for COVID-19 towards the end of last week. We must all remember that it is no one's fault if they contract this terrible virus and I am sure you will all join me in wishing the individual a swift and full recovery.

In this particular case, the individual was asymptomatic and it was the Lateral Flow Device that delivered a positive result. It was due to the family following advice and informing school immediately in the morning that allowed us to take prompt action and identify close contacts who needed to self-isolate. In line with Public Health guidance I must reassure you that all other pupils can attend school as normal. However, this does illustrate that the virus can still affect us all and we must continue to follow all the guidance.

With this in mind, it is crucial that you must not send your child to school if they are displaying any of the three main symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, or a loss of taste and/or smell). In such cases, inform the school immediately and you must seek a PCR test through the NHS. Please also support your child in using the Lateral Flow Devices every Monday and Thursday morning before school. Should this return a positive result, again inform the school immediately and you must seek a confirmatory PCR test straight away. In these circumstances, it is likely we will send pupils within the same group home whilst we identify close contacts who will need to self-isolate. If the confirmatory PCR test is ultimately negative, then the close contacts will be able to stop self-isolating and return to school. If the PCR test is positive, all close contacts must complete the full 10 day self-isolation period.

I am sure you are aware that as from today, we are following Government advice that states pupils are no longer recommended to wear face coverings at school. However, we fully understand if pupils wish to continue wearing their face covering and are more than happy to support this. Adults do have to continue wearing face coverings in corridors and communal spaces, and some staff will also continue to wear them in the classroom.

We have been in discussions with the Local Outbreak Team following the identification of the positive case and they have full confidence in the system of controls we have in place in school. Please continue to encourage your child to follow all the guidance to keep each other safe. If you do have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at school.

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher

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