

CLO/jr
2 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carers

We hope you have had a lovely half term that has been COVID-free.

As you will be aware the Government has announced its new guidance on 'Living with COVID'. This now means that we are no longer required to test twice a week and will no longer be provided with LFD tests for students (although we did yesterday give out to Year 7 students, the tests that they should have been given on the Friday before the half term break) or staff unless we have an outbreak within the school, should that happen Public Health England will authorise more tests to be issued.

However, given our size and in order to continue to operate as normal we are asking for your support for educational reasons and the wellbeing of all members of the school community.

The new guidelines now mean that isolation is no longer a legal requirement. However the guidance is clear in that should a student or member of staff test positive for COVID, the recommendation is that they isolate and reduce contact with others.

The isolation period will be for a minimum of 5 days; you may choose to take an LFD test after 5 days and after two consecutive negative LFT results students or staff can safely return to their normal routine. The student or staff member should not return to school until they have had two negative tests and are no longer displaying symptoms. Fully vaccinated close contacts and children under 18 will no longer need to test if they come into contact with a person with COVID or live in the same household but the advice is to exercise appropriate caution.

By continuing to follow the recommended isolation period, our students and staff members will be helping to reduce the transmission within our school community and therefore prevent many others from having to take time away from school and from their education.

Just to remind you of the classic symptoms of COVID: high temperature, loss of taste/smell and/or a dry, persistent cough. The newer symptoms associated with Omicron: a headache, runny nose, sneezing and sore throat. Please do not send your child into school if they present with these symptoms.

Face coverings are no longer required to be worn in school. As part of our contingency measures, face coverings will be re-introduced in the event of an outbreak in school as directed by Public Health England.

However, we are still required to keep indoor spaces well ventilated. We will therefore continue to ensure that windows and doors are to be kept open. Students will be required to take their coats off at the start of lessons but if it is cold they will be permitted to put their coat on. It is important that all students have their green jumper to wear every day.

While we are delighted that we have moved forward and can operate in a more normal fashion we do need to exercise appropriate caution and thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Oakley
Headteacher