

20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a restful weekend. I felt I should write out to you all to update you on how covid is currently affecting us in school and, more importantly, what impact this may have on staff and students in the coming days and weeks.

I am afraid to say we are now seeing quite a significant number of covid cases coming through. This weekend alone we have had a dozen confirmed cases. The number of groups with multiple cases identified is increasing by the day.

To try to identify asymptomatic cases quickly and slow the spread down we are taking the following actions from Wednesday:

- We will carry out lateral flow tests on consenting students in groups with multiple identified cases.
- You will receive a text message if your child is in a group with a positive case encouraging you to book a PCR test.
- If your child is off sick from school and has any covid related symptoms you will be asked to book a PCR test.

If the number of positive cases continue to rise this week I will be contacting you again to say we will be requesting all non-exempt staff and students wear masks moving round the building, including when lining up for food at breaks and lunches. The progression from there if necessary would be masks being worn at all times.

Clearly none of us likes the idea of masks returning to school but if this level of cases continues we will have no choice. Any mask related measures would be in place for a 2-week period initially to be reviewed after that time.

I would like to thank you in advance for support with these possible measures. We all want our young people to be able to enjoy school safely and with minimal disruption.

Finally, I will just mention Covid vaccinations. I have not yet had any confirmation when the NHS would be carrying out vaccinations on site. To be very clear vaccinations will only take place with your consent as parent/carers. The school will play no active role in this other than to support the NHS in getting information to you all in a timely way and providing a room on site to vaccinate.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any specific questions. We will start lateral flow testing of some groups on Wednesday. If you gave consent at the start of term we are assuming consent is still given. If you have changed your mind please email us as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely



Mrs R England  
Headteacher