

Friday, 10 September 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Our students have made an excellent start to this academic year, embracing the return to their lessons in different subject departments around the School. Several new staff have commented on just how special our students are; describing them as friendly, enthusiastic and some of the politest and most respectful students they have ever worked with.

We would like to take this opportunity at the start of the Academic Year to stress the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality in supporting your child achieve their best. The School gates will close promptly at 08:30 and therefore expect all student to be on site by 08:25. Similarly, appointments for students outside school hours would be our expectation.

There has been considerable media coverage and misinformation about COVID in recent months. We thought it would be useful to highlight the main updates from Government guidance regarding COVID-19 in Schools.

- **If your child is experiencing a cough, fever or loss of sense of smell and/or taste they must not come to School and should go for a PCR test by following the instructions on the website below.**
- **If your child has a sore throat and headache they should book a PCR test immediately, as this appears to be one of the early warning signs**
- **If your child is unwell and awaiting a PCR test result they should remain at home and self-isolate until their Test result has been confirmed**

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

In addition to providing all our students with Home Testing Kits, students have had the opportunity to take two Lateral Flow Tests at School this week. It is vital that students and their families continue to take these tests twice a week. This is now the strongest strategy at our disposal to ensure that the virus does not spread in our community.

Please can all parents and carers ensure their children conduct Lateral Flow Test every Sunday and Wednesday evening. Failure to do this increases the risk to all our other students, our staff and their families. If your child tests positive with the Home Testing Kit, they must not come in to School. Please inform the School and arrange a PCR test.

If your child is self-isolating, but well enough to do School work, there are activities for English, Maths and Science available on our School Website [[LINK](#)]. By the third day of their isolation your child will be able to join their lessons through Microsoft Teams in all subjects except PE, Music, Drama and DART. Please contact their Learning Coordinator if you require any support in accessing lesson.

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Children identified as a 'close contact' will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace. They do not need to self-isolate but should go for a PCR test and continue to take Lateral Flow Tests at home. This includes siblings of a child that has tested positive.

Finally, we would remind parents that if your child uses public transport it is a requirement that they wear a mask.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish all our community good health for the new academic year.

Yours faithfully



Mr M O'Hagan
Deputy Headteacher