

23rd November 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

We have been advised that there has been an increase of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Year 11. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts will be informed by NHS test and trace.

Review of risk assessment

In light of the positive cases, we have reviewed our risk assessment and increased cleaning and ventilation to manage the current situation. We have also recently reviewed lunch-times and this will reduce the mixing of students across the Academy. In addition to these measures, from Wednesday 24th November students and staff will also be required to:

- **Wear a face mask in corridors and communal areas**
- **Sanitise hands regularly using the sanitising stations outside each classroom**

All secondary students have access to home test kits from school. These can be collected from Heads of Year. 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. Any student that tests positive on the LFT should immediately book a PCR test.

We will be offering testing in school for all Year 11 students and their in-school siblings. These students will be issued with consent forms and we will be testing onsite from Wednesday 24th November. Please return the consent form as soon as possible to enable us to plan accordingly. This will allow us to identify any other positive cases and add further measures, if necessary, to prevent the spreading of the virus. Year 11 mock exams commence on Monday 29th November and it is therefore essential that we all play our part in ensuring these exams can take place in safe conditions.

In order to keep our school community safe and our children attending school there are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

- 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

If a member of your family tests positive for COVID-19 or your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, we are advising that your child takes daily lateral flow tests or books a PCR test. Please note that if your child has had Covid-19 in the last 90 days there is no need to test them again as their result may be a false positive.

Further Information

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

Symptoms of COVID 19

If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms they should take a PCR test and isolate. COVID-19 symptoms are:

- 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. 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.

We will continue to encourage all members of the community to wear face masks, wash their hands and adhere to actions stated in our risk assessment. We will review the current arrangements in two weeks. Thank you for helping us to keep our whole school community safe.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs J Sing
Headteacher