

July 16th 2021

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of term, we received confirmation this week from the Prime Minister that the country is moving to step 4 of the Covid Response Roadmap from 19th July. Many legal restrictions will end, but there is a strong recommendation that every individual should act responsibly and cautiously. The pandemic is not over and as we continue to see a rise in cases locally and nationally, there is an expectation in this next phase that we learn to live with Covid.

Some guidance remains in place for the safety of all our community. Families should remain vigilant, adhere to good hand washing and hygiene practice, and seek a PCR test if symptoms develop.

There will also be some changes from 19th July to the way that our schools are working with families and our young people.

- After 19th July school will no longer identify close contacts of a positive case and send them home. Anyone who receives a positive result from a PCR test will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and asked to name their close contacts. Those contacts will be informed by NHS Test and Trace to self isolate. It will remain a requirement for anybody contacted by NHS in any age group to isolate, until 16th August. Please notify school of any absence before the end of term due to self isolation in the usual way.
- From 16 August, those under the age of 18 will no longer be required to isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, under 18s will be advised to take a PCR test. This will also be the case for those who have been double vaccinated. Students over 18 will be given 4 months from their birthday to access vaccinations in order that they will not be required to isolate during the school year.
- A positive result on a Lateral Flow Device test, or symptoms of Covid-19 will continue to require self-isolation (and household-isolation) and a PCR test. Please inform school if this is the case.
- Schools will have flexibility from 19th July to change arrangements. You will be contacted directly by your school with any changes.
- All secondary aged students, including new year 7's will be offered 2 Lateral Flow Device tests at school at the start of the Autumn term in September. We will communicate details of the arrangements once these are finalised.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we plan to make the changes that the announcements yesterday bring about and for your continued support in remaining vigilant to protect all our community.

We are optimistic about the return of more familiar ways of running our school and supporting our young people and staff as they make this transition after such a challenging time for all. As always if you require support with any of the above information, please let us know.

David Horn, CEO

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