

To: All Parents/Carers of Year 7 to Year 13 Students

8 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## Re: Important reminder and update on our Covid safety controls

After liaising with Public Health, I am writing to inform you that - due to the rise of COVID-19 cases in our school community within the last 10 days - we have been advised to introduce some additional control measures in line with our risk assessment and contingency planning. This is also in line with national guidance.

As you know, we have continued with a number of controls, including:

- The promotion of good respiratory hygiene throughout the school ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- Frequent opportunities for hand sanitation to reduce the transmission of the virus. All of our classrooms and communal areas are fitted with sanitising stations; staff and students sanitise their hands upon entry and exit
- Increasing ventilation in our classrooms and communal areas by ensuring that windows are open, as well as encouraging students to use our outdoor spaces during break and lunchtimes as much as they can
- Continuing to use additional cleaners to carry out an extensive cleaning programme throughout the day (in addition to the end of the school day). This ensures any communal areas and frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and sanitised
- Retaining aspects of the one-way systems and reducing the opportunity for different key stages to mix through the staggering of break and lunchtimes as part of our new school day

In addition, we have been advised to include the following:

From 11 October 2021, **staff and students are being advised to wear face masks in communal areas** (including all corridors and when moving around the canteen areas) as well as continuing to wear them **on buses** when travelling to and from school. As was the case previously, students will **not** be required to wear them in classrooms, unless they wish to. We will let you know as soon as this additional important control can be relaxed.

All students should continue to **take regular Lateral Flow Tests** at least twice every week. We have been asked to stress the importance of supporting your child to do a lateral flow test twice a week and letting us know at once if the test is positive. This is a really important way of picking up cases quickly and preventing spread of the virus. Children can collect packs of lateral flow tests from their Head of House. Alternatively, they are also available to order online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

I also wanted to give a reminder that students must stay off school and take a PCR test immediately if one of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are evident. These include a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

In addition, we have taken the decision to move our assemblies online to reduce the amount of time mixed year groups are sat together indoors.

We understand that this remains a worrying and frustrating time for many parents and students and we will continue to work closely with Public Health. Our students have made an excellent start to the academic year and, with these enhanced measures, we hope to minimise any future disruption to their education.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Williman', with a large loop at the end of the name.

Richard Williman  
**Headteacher**