



Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to welcome all our students back, following what has been a wet and windy half-term break. As we return to brighter mornings and sunnier weather, we hope that this half-term allows the whole community to begin to heal following the past few years of disruption caused by the pandemic and we again thank you for your support as we navigate new guidance and changes.

Many of you will be aware that the Prime Minister gave an [oral statement](#) in Parliament outlining the next phase of the Government's COVID-19 response last week. New guidance on Living with Covid is available [here](#), and updated guidance has been published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) [here](#).

As a result of these updates, we have updated our risk assessments and reviewed our processes; there are still cases of COVID-19 in our community and while this is the case we ask that you continue to be vigilant. We will be maintaining control measures in school, these include:

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases.

**Key updates/changes to our procedures you need to be aware of:**

- **There is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate but until the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, the government still advises people who test positive to stay at home.** Adults and children who test positive are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **at least five full days** and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days. **We request that all parents and pupils continue to adhere to this guidance.**
- Fully vaccinated adults and those aged under 18 who are close contacts are **no longer advised to test daily for seven days** and the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate has been removed.
- the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake **twice-weekly asymptomatic testing has now been removed and so this will now stop**

We will now only be able to order/access tests if these are needed to respond to local public health advice due to local outbreaks. You should also be able to access test kits from your local pharmacy or online.

### **Reporting cases and our recording of attendance**

The position on recording school attendance in the register has not changed. We will continue to closely monitor cases in school and so please continue to inform us if your child is experiencing symptoms or has tested positive through the usual channels. Please contact your college admin team, as per normal procedures for absence.

Incrementally we are working towards more of a normality, applying the appropriate care and caution we need to take with any infectious diseases in our community. Thank you for your continued co-operation, patience and understanding; we really have worked through all the challenges that the pandemic has created, together and with fortitude. I look forward to a positive and productive second half of the spring term.

Kind regards

Miss Nicola Crehan  
Principal