

5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families have been able to have a restful and enjoyable holiday.

I am writing to update you on the most recent COVID-19 guidance from the Department of Education, this was shared with schools on Sunday 2nd January. The main change in this guidance is that face coverings are now required to be worn in classrooms as well as in communal areas of secondary schools. You will be aware that we have continued to ask students to wear face coverings in classrooms throughout Term 2, therefore there is no change required here with regards to our COVID-19 measures. Could I remind you to ensure that your child has at least one, clean, face covering with them when they are attending school. If a student does not have a face covering then we will continue to provide them with a washable face covering; this will be charged at cost price via ParentPay.

The other COVID-19 mitigation measures that are in place in school are outlined in the latest risk assessment, a copy of this is available in the COVID-19 area of the website. These now include the requirement that any visitors to the school take a lateral flow test before their visit and this applies to parents visiting for a meeting in school or a school event.

The self-isolation period has now been reduced to 7 days, provided that the person has tested negative in a lateral flow test on day 6 and day 7. If both the day 6 and 7 tests were taken in the morning, before the start of the school day, then a student can return to school on day 7. Please be aware the day that your child tests positive or has their first symptoms is day 0. We are asking that you submit the results from the day 6 and day 7 lateral flow tests to the school if they are both negative.

We are also asking that parents continue to have their children take twice weekly lateral flow tests and that we are informed of the result from these. Of course, it remains the case that it is essential that you inform us of positive test results, whether from a lateral flow or a PCR test.

I am sure that you are aware that it is increasingly likely that many public services will be affected by staffing shortages as the number of covid cases continues to increase and that schools can expect to see high levels of staffing disruption this term. We have prepared a contingency plan in the event that we are required to either restrict attendance at school for public health reasons or because of high levels of staff absence and I have attached a copy of this document. In the event that attendance at school is restricted then we will implement the remote learning arrangements for the students effected. This information is available in the COVID-19 section of the Parent area of the website. Please be aware that arrangements are different for these two scenarios. If we are restricting attendance of year groups for public health reasons, and have staff available, then any year groups not in school will be taught via Teams, as was the case in the previous periods of school closure. If a year group is not in school because of staff absence, then they will not be taught via Teams but will have



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independent work set because their teachers will have been redeployed to teach the year groups that remain in school.

I very much hope that we are not significantly impacted by staff absence this term and will do all that we can to minimise disruption to learning if this is the case.

It is our intention to continue to run our enrichment and extra-curricular activities however it is possible that these may also be disrupted by staff absence, therefore your understanding if this is the case is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Mr Steven Mackay  
**Headteacher**