

To: all Parents/Carers

22 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my letter to you on Monday, I have liaised daily with the Norfolk COVID team and wanted to write to you to update you on our current situation. As you will be aware, the number of positive cases of COVID-19 in the area and within our school have increased this week and we have been monitoring this closely. We are now in the position where the number of cases in the Year 9 cohort is classed as an outbreak. I have spent a long time today in consultation with the Norfolk Outbreak Team and am reassured that many schools are in a similar situation to us, some much worse, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't strengthen our response to the growing number of cases.

In terms of stepping up our measures to keep our school community as safe as possible, we will be doing the following:

- Ensuring more regular cleaning of touch points and shared areas.
- Asking Year 7-9 students to move straight through to the QUAD area when they enter school in the morning, rather than waiting in the Atrium, and asking Years 10 and 11 to move through to the back playground and the area outside the D-block. This will avoid prolonged contact between year groups.
- From tomorrow, we would like all students (and staff) who can to wear a face covering when inside and moving between classrooms. At the moment we will not be asking students to wear face coverings in classrooms, although they are welcome to should they wish, and we will monitor this daily.
- We will increase the number of windows open in each classroom.
- We will ask all teachers to remain at the front of their classroom rather than circulating round students unless absolutely necessary.

As well as these measures, there are important things that your child can do to keep themselves and others safe. These include:

- Maintaining social distancing whenever possible.
- Maintaining good hand hygiene including sanitising on entry to every classroom and washing their hands thoroughly before eating.
- Ensuring that they get a PCR test at the first sign of any symptoms – which now include the symptoms of a common cold - and don't return to school until they have received a negative test result.
- Continuing to take lateral flow tests twice a week at home. These are available from the school using this link [Report & Request Lateral Flow Tests](#)
- Wearing a mask on any public transport.
- Avoiding sharing food/drink with each other.

We hope that the increase in cases that we have seen this week has now reached its peak, as the number of new cases was higher yesterday than today, and that by sticking rigorously to the measures above we can further stop the spread of the disease. I want to reassure you that the cases of COVID-19 that are presenting in our school community at this time are mild and often asymptomatic. This is good news and is exactly what the Government and Public Health Team expected when schools returned in September. To further protect our community, our voluntary programme of vaccinations for 12–15 year-olds will be beginning on 4<sup>th</sup> October which we hope will decrease the number of students absent from school due to COVID. Please be reassured that no students will be vaccinated without parental consent.

While I understand that this is a difficult time for families I need to reiterate how important it is, from an educational perspective, that children who are not presenting with symptoms of COVID or have been instructed to isolate continue to attend school.

We of course wish all students and families suffering from COVID-19 a swift recovery and hope to see you back in school soon.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Yassin  
Deputy Headteacher

