



20th October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Important information regarding COVID-19 cases in Y11, vaccinations, and managing the spread of cases throughout the school community.

Short read - to be read by Y11 parents/ carers in particular:

This is to let you know there have been an increasing number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school community, and your child may have had contact with them during their infectious period. Although there have been cases in all year groups, there has been a higher than average number within Y11. Our numbers are still low compared to some other schools, but we want to make sure we inform you quickly to prevent any further spread. As a result:

- we recommend increased testing to our Y11 cohort. This means daily lateral flow tests over the remaining days of this half term and going for a PCR test if there is any risk of being a close contact of a positive case and / or symptoms develop. PCR tests can also be booked and taken as a precautionary measure;
- we would also like to remind you that Y11 students can wear face coverings in school should they wish, particularly for the remainder of this term, although this is not currently compulsory.

Additional information - to be read by all families:

Today's vaccinations

The vaccination programme run by the Childhood Immunisation Team and hosted at school today, has been under-resourced. As an update to my message earlier, two vaccinators arrived at school this morning to vaccinate 500 children. Given the prevalence of cases in the Y11 cohort and their upcoming exams, we made the decision to prioritise this year group. The Team also plan to vaccinate as many of the Y7 students as possible by the end of today. Any parents who gave consent but whose child has not been vaccinated, will be given another opportunity straight after half term. Parents of all students will also have another chance to give consent if they did not manage to do this for the first round of jabs. More information about this will follow in due course.





General advice for the school community

Schools are no longer expected to identify the close contacts of cases of COVID-19 (unless in very exceptional circumstances) - this is done by the national Test and Trace system.

Test and Trace may be in touch with you in the coming days if your child is identified as a close contact by them, but as a school we will not pass personal contact details on to the cases to share with Test and Trace.

Children who are close contacts of someone with COVID-19 are no longer required to isolate unless they develop symptoms. However they are advised to get a PCR test, and they are at a higher risk of developing COVID-19 in the days after the contact. They do not need to isolate while they wait for the result, unless they have symptoms.

Your child should continue to attend school unless they develop symptoms of COVID-19 or are unwell. If they do develop symptoms, please keep your child at home and book a PCR test for them.

The 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 remain a fever (temperature 37.8°C or higher), a new continuous cough, or a change to / loss of taste or smell. However, other commonly reported symptoms of the Delta variant include headache, sore throat, tiredness, and cold-like symptoms, so please be aware of these as well and stay at home and seek testing if you are in any doubt.

Regular lateral flow testing will also help to identify individuals with COVID-19 who are not displaying symptoms. All pupils, staff and people they live with are strongly encouraged to continue to test themselves twice a week using lateral flow tests (even through half term), and to stay at home and request a PCR test should the result come back positive.

Thank you for your continued support, and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher

