



22 September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I just wanted to update you on the Covid situation in school.

Unfortunately, the number of students who have tested positive has increased significantly in the last 3 days. We now have over 50 confirmed cases across all year groups with around another 20 students with symptoms awaiting test results. There are also two staff absent with Covid. This is more than the total number of cases we had last year. I can confirm that everyone who has tested positive is at home and will only return when they are fully recovered.

This rise in cases is widespread. Local primaries and secondaries are reporting a similar picture and there were over 100,000 students absent nationally last week with confirmed or suspected cases, a number that is likely to be grow.

We have been in regular contact with the local Public Health Body and will take any action recommended by them. An important point to make is that Covid is usually a minor illness for the young and many of the students who have the illness don't have any symptoms. The most common symptoms for the others are typical "winter cold/flu" symptoms such as sore throat, headache, temperature, nasal congestion etc..

If students have any of these winter illness symptoms please remain at home until you are confident it is not Covid. Lateral flow test kits are available from student reception and we would encourage all students to test at home regularly.

It is important we now take some sensible precautions to contain the issue so we will be reintroducing masks in corridors from Friday at the latest although we would ideally want students to be using them tomorrow. We will also reopen the extra gates in the morning so students can be more spread out as they enter the building.

We already have enhanced ventilation, extra cleaning, enhanced first aid measures, testing kits and wide access to hand sanitiser but will introduce further safety measures if we need to. These may include masks in lessons, increased social distancing at lunch, staggered starts and exits etc.. We will let you know as and when things change.

Unfortunately, the pandemic isn't over yet but let's hope that by taking quick action we can get back on track quickly.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'NGoforth'.

Nick Goforth, Headteacher