

1 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

After liaising with Public Health, I am writing to inform you that - due to the proportion of COVID-19 cases in our school community within the last 10 days - we have been advised to introduce some additional control measures in line with our risk assessment and contingency planning. This is also in line with national guidance.

As you know, we have continued with a number of controls, including:

- The promotion of good respiratory hygiene throughout the school ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- Frequent opportunities for hand sanitation to reduce the transmission of the virus. All of our classrooms and communal areas are fitted with sanitising stations; staff and students sanitise their hands upon entry and exit
- Increasing ventilation in our classrooms and communal areas by ensuring that windows are open, as well as encouraging students to use our outdoor spaces during break and lunchtimes as much as they can
- Continuing to use additional cleaners to carry out an extensive cleaning programme throughout the day (in addition to the end of the school day). This ensures any communal areas and frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and sanitised
- Retaining aspects of the one-way systems and some aspects of the school day remain staggered, so that **students' use of the canteens at break and lunch are in year group bubbles**. Before school starts, students wait in their designated meeting points on West and North Playground.

In addition, we have been advised to include the following:

From Monday 4 October 2021, **staff and students are being advised to wear face masks in communal areas** (including all corridors and when moving around the canteen area) and **on buses** when travelling to and from school. They are **not** currently advised to wear them in classrooms. We will let you know as soon as this can be relaxed.

All staff and students should continue to **take regular LFT tests** at least twice every week. We have been asked to stress the importance of supporting your child to do a lateral flow test twice a week and letting us know at once if the test is positive. This is a really important way of picking up cases quickly and preventing spread of the virus. Lateral flow tests will be given to students during form time next week but if you need

any in the meantime, your child can collect some from ACE reception. Alternatively, they are also available to order online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

A reminder that students must stay off school and take a PCR test immediately if one of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are evident. These include a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Assemblies have now been split into smaller groups so that full year groups are not sitting together for long periods.

We understand that this is a worrying and frustrating time for everyone and we will continue to work closely with Public Health. Our students have made an excellent start to the academic year and, with these enhanced measures, we hope to minimise any disruption to their education.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Ratheram', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Scott Ratheram  
Executive Principal