

26 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that, following the change in government guidance (coupled with the relatively low proportion of COVID-19 cases in our school community within the last 10 days), we are now in a position to remove some of the additional controls we introduced as part of our contingency planning.

From Thursday 27 January we will return to the original controls that were in place in September. Therefore, staff and students will no longer be expected to wear masks in communal areas or buses (though they are welcome to should they wish), in line with national guidance.

As a reminder, our continuing controls, include:

- 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. Some aspects of the school day also 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.

I would again remind you of the benefits of all staff and students continuing to **take regular LFT tests** at least twice every week, 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 continue to be given to students to take home. Alternatively, they are also available to order online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

Please remember 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.

Although we are pleased that rates have fallen across the school, we understand that this remains a worrying time for many families. We will continue to closely monitor Covid rates with

Public Health and will reintroduce our contingency measures, should the proportion of positive cases increase again.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

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

Mr Scott Ratheram
Executive Principal