

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Important COVID-19 Update

It is always our aim to provide the best possible learning experience for all our students. Although we are pleased to have our students back in school learning, engaging in extra-curricular activities and thoroughly enjoying their time with us, we are still contending with the very real impact that COVID-19 is having on our community.

In my previous letter to you, I explained that we would continue to monitor the increase in cases in the local community, in local schools and, of course, at NSG. I am now writing to you to inform you of the additional preventative measures that we will be implementing from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October**.

## Preventative measures to be implemented from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Although we have had low COVID case numbers so far this term, we are currently seeing an increase in positive cases amongst our students and wish to respond to this increase swiftly, proactively, and in a proportionate way. Therefore, to help reduce the number of cases in school, we will be re-introducing the following measures until the end of this half-term:

- Students and staff, with the exception of those that are exempt, **will be required to wear face coverings** in communal areas and corridors, where social distancing may be difficult.
- Ventilation of classrooms will be increased, as well as hand-washing/sanitisation.
- Students encouraged to go outside during break times and lunch times.
- Assemblies will be reconfigured to substantially reduce numbers to allow for social distancing.
- All non-essential visitors to the school will be cancelled.

All other aspects of the school will operate as normal including co-curricular clubs and fixtures and we will continue to monitor and review our measures on a day to day basis and respond accordingly. We hope that you will be supportive and understanding of these measures and this letter is to inform you of the current situation. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus will be a mild illness.

We encourage household members that are aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly. If you need additional test packs, these can be ordered at no cost and delivered to you directly from the government website here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

## What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10



days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus COVID-19 are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If your child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms, they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.

Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test and this can be arranged by calling 119.

### **Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)**

From 16 August, individuals are not required to self-isolate if in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- You are fully vaccinated
- You are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- You have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- You are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons, in which case NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate.

If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, you will be advised to take a PCR test as soon as possible. Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

### **Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate.**

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread.

As well as getting a PCR test, you may also consider:

- Limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- Wearing a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded places such as school/college/public transport
- Limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- Taking part in regular LFD testing

### **How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day



- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze • put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- Open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- Wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it is hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places.

With best wishes,



Mrs Cristina Taboada-Naya  
**Headteacher**

