



Friday 4 June 2021

Dear parents and carers

Important information regarding face coverings from Monday 7 June.

I would not ordinarily write to you during half term, but on this occasion, I need to outline some important and immediate changes relating to the use of face coverings and home testing as part of our COVID-safe procedures.

Across Greater Manchester, COVID case rates have increased considerably in all boroughs or remained high in the last two weeks and are broadly in the top 20% of all boroughs nationally for COVID cases.

The 'doubling time' of cases is roughly one week. This exponential rise in cases is due to the high transmissibility of the 'Delta variant' as well as increased mixing and movement of people.

Following advice from all the Directors of Public Health across Greater Manchester there are a number of steps we need to strengthen or reintroduce with immediate effect:

- All students should complete and report the outcome of their lateral flow test on Sunday and Wednesday evening. Please complete and report your child's test this Sunday (6 June).

I want to stress the real importance of this for all students as its purpose is to pick up those who are COVID positive but are not showing symptoms (i.e. asymptomatic cases).

- Face coverings will need to be worn in school again **from Monday 7 June** until further notice.
- Students will be required to wear face coverings in lessons and around the school site where social distancing cannot be ensured.
- Year 10 students when sitting their exams in the sports hall will *not* have to wear a face covering as we can maintain social distancing as part of the room set-up.
- Students in years 7, 8 and 9 when completing their assessments in classrooms will not be required to wear a face covering. The room will be well ventilated and there will be no talking.
- Only students with a medical exemption will be allowed not to wear a face covering in normal lessons or around the school site.
- Lateral flow testing will need to be completed and reported on Sundays and Wednesday evenings.
- There will be similar restrictions in place for staff.

I will keep you updated on any further developments and will write to you as normal at least weekly on Friday as has been the case over the year. I appreciate your support in ensuring we all stay safe – you, your child, our staff – as we collectively do well we can to combat the impact of the coronavirus, **particularly home testing on Sundays and Wednesdays.**

Yours faithfully,
Kieran Larkin
Headteacher

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING