

22 October 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

As a result of positive cases of COVID-19 rising across the county, Northumberland County Council have today issued updated recommendations for both our schools. Both schools are yet to reach the outbreak thresholds described in the Contingency Framework, but given the local and national situation, we will introduce/ continue the following measures after half-term.

From Monday 1 November:

- **Face coverings:** we ask that pupils (in year 7 and 8) and all staff wear face coverings in communal areas, unless they are exempt. Pupils travelling on school or public transport should also be wearing face coverings.
- **Weekly testing:** pupils in KS3 should continue to take twice-weekly lateral flow tests and record the results at this [link](#). **Pupils should take a test on the Sunday evening before returning to school.** Please note that pupils and staff who have tested positive within 90 days should not be encouraged to test unless they develop symptoms.
- **Testing for household contacts of COVID-19:** pupils who are household close contacts of a case of COVID-19 and do not have symptoms (i.e. those who are exempt from isolation and may continue to attend school) should arrange a PCR test. In addition, staff and secondary school age pupils who are household contacts should undertake **daily lateral flow testing** at home until they have received a negative PCR result.
- **Meetings and events:** meetings and events in school will return to an online format to limit the transmission of the virus. We had already intended to hold our upcoming Parents' Evenings online (bookings are now open for year 6).
- **Visitors to school:** we will be limiting the number of non-essential visitors to the school site.

Our extra-curricular programme will go ahead as planned and existing measures such as hand hygiene, ventilation and cleaning will continue. We will also continue to give regular reminders in assemblies and form time. Our approach to remote learning will continue for pupils who are unable to attend school due to isolating following or awaiting a positive test result. As a school, we have our own Contingency Framework in place, and we will continue to closely monitor the number of cases and liaise with the local Public Health team. Should you have any questions, please get in touch with us. We will continue to provide regular updates for parents/ carers as the next half term develops.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely half term break!

Mr Watters

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