

Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday I received a letter from the Hackney public health team recommending we consider additional Covid measures in the run up to Christmas and through to February half term. This is preventative advice for all Hackney schools in response to an increase in cases in the 10-16 age group across the borough. Many neighbouring boroughs have already made these recommendations. As a school, we have only had 2 reported cases this week, one of our best weeks so far. Nevertheless, I do feel that it is better to get ahead of a potential spike in cases and take steps now to prevent more stringent action being required further down the line.

In line with the public health guidance, the additional measures we are introducing from Monday are:

1. **Increased promotion of regular home / lateral flow testing.** This is the main step families can take to prevent transmission and avoid school closures related to local outbreaks. We will now issue text reminders on Wednesdays and Sundays to take LFD tests and record the results.
2. **Reintroduction of wearing face coverings in communal areas for staff and students.** Please ensure your child has a re-usable face mask for Monday to be worn in corridors and indoor spaces where social distancing is not possible (ie canteen). Students will not be expected to wear face coverings during lessons.

We will also continue with existing measures to promote hand hygiene and increase ventilation. This also means that students will be outside in the fresh air at break and lunchtimes in all but the most inclement weather. Please ensure your child has a suitably warm and water resistant coat. There are currently lots of shivery children in the playground who don't have coats, gloves or scarves and the weather has turned very wintery this week.

At this point, we are not making any other changes to planned Christmas events (such as the school production) other than to ask parents to take LFD tests before the performance. The school can provide these tests if you do not have enough at home.

New guidance has been issued on the recommended timescale between Covid infection and vaccination for 12-15 year olds (now 12 weeks rather than 4 weeks previously). More information on this and how to access vaccination if your child was not included in the school vaccination programme is available through this [link](#).

It is so important to us that we are able to maintain a normal academic year for students without disruption of closure this year. I know you will be feeling exactly the same way. I am hopeful that if we work together on these measures and ensure that all [guidance](#) is followed if your child or a household member develops symptoms or becomes unwell, we will be able to achieve that. Compared to this time last year, when cases were accelerating at a dramatic rate, we are in a much, much better position. With three weeks to go until the Christmas holidays, I am confident we will be able to finish the school term and enjoy the festive events which we all look forward to in December.

Have a lovely weekend

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