



26 November 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Important COVID-19 Update

Further to the letter I wrote on Friday 5 November, the number of cases of COVID we are seeing in students and staff is rising rapidly after a fall during half-term.

As I noted in my previous letter, the national guidance now states that "school management are responsible for breaking chains of transmission to prevent detrimental impact on education". As you are aware, we have been recommending for some time that students and staff should wear face masks in communal areas. This action was taken to try to reduce the transmission of cases within the academy so that face-to-face learning could continue uninterrupted.

Long-COVID and current cases of COVID are having a significant impact on the staff attendance as well as that of students, and this is having an impact on leaders ability to maintain face-to-face learning. Over the last five school days, the number of students absent due to positive COVID tests has increased from 15 to 45. Prior to half-term, we experienced days with almost 10% (130) of our students absent due to positive COVID tests.

I have said before that I will do everything possible to avoid a return to remote learning and breaking the chains of transmission are a key part of that. Having spoken again to the Infection Prevention Control team at the local authority, they have agreed that it is appropriate to reintroduce compulsory measures in an attempt to stem the surge of cases.

From Monday 29 November, all students and staff will be required to wear a face mask when they are in communal areas. Our Communal areas are:

- Corridors
- Canteens
- Changing rooms

At this time, face masks **will not** be required in lessons or when outside. We also acknowledge that some students will not be wearing a face mask for medical reasons.

I recognise there will be those who disagree with this action. However, this is a limited step which will reduce transmission in crowded areas and help us to maintain face-to-face learning. As and when the number of cases reduce, we will remove this additional mitigation.

In addition to this, and again from Monday 29 November, we require all those who receive a positive PCR test result to email confirmation of this to absence@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk. There is no need to complete the online form now as we are no longer required to track and trace.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Frazer
Principal

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