



1 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Following a meeting with the Governors on Thursday 30 September, I am writing to you on behalf of myself, the school staff and the Local Governing Body.

Since we returned to learning with all year groups on Wednesday 8 September, we have been closely monitoring student and staff absence. At Guilsborough Academy, the attendance is generally very good with students' attendance above the national average. Recently, however, absence among both students and staff have been increasing with COVID and other illnesses having an impact. We recognise that this is an issue facing many schools nationally.

This week, absences among our students has been high, with over 10% of our students absent each day. While absence among our staff has not reached that level, I know of schools within the county where staff absence is now creating a real challenge in keep all year groups in school. COVID-19 is still the biggest risk factor in student and staff absence. Over the past 5 days the number of cases has risen quickly with those affected having to self-isolate for 10 days. At the time of writing, we had 60 students isolating of which 38 were confirmed positive cases. This has an impact on their learning.

The Government guidance is clear and anyone showing any symptoms of COVID-19 should book a PCR test and isolate until they receive the result of the test. Those who test positive using a lateral flow test should also self-isolate and book a PCR test. The Governors and I would like to reiterate the Government guidance and stress the importance of following this. However, we are also concerned that further cases among the staff will result in the academy being unable to maintain face-to-face learning, for all students, at all times.

It is important that we do everything we can to keep our students in their classrooms, as that is where the best possible learning takes place. Having taken advice from the IPC (Infection Prevention Control), we are now strongly advising our students and staff to return to wearing a face mask indoors. This advice comes into effect on Monday 4 October. While the guidance does not allow me to make this compulsory, the Governors and I believe it is an appropriate step when we see cases rising as they are.

I understand there will be those who disagree and would challenge this advice. However, we believe this step is we are acting in the best interests of our whole community.

As always, we welcome contributions from our parents/carers. If you would like to comment, please use the following link: principalpa@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr S Frazer
Principal

Address:
West Haddon Rd
Guilsborough,
Northampton,
NN6 8QE

T: 01604740641

Principal:
Mr S Frazer
B.Sc. (Hons)

Email:
info@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk

principalpa@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk

Web:
www.guilsborough.northants.sch.uk