



23 February 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

The Coronavirus pandemic has been a challenge for all of us. During the last 23 months, Governors and members of the senior team have met on a weekly basis to discuss the latest guidance and agree how we will implement any changes which have been made. This has not been straightforward and I know that while some of you feel some of the actions may have gone too far, there are others who feel the actions taken have not been strong enough. I have attempted to keep you informed of any changes as quickly as possible and that is why I am writing to you today.

On Monday the Prime Minister announced an end to regular testing and compulsory isolation for those who test positive. While some changes come into effect from 1 April, the end of compulsory isolation takes effect from Thursday 24 February. There will be mixed feelings about this, we understand that. However, throughout the pandemic, we have strived to follow the national guidance, implementing the measures in full.

From Thursday 24 February, the legal requirement to self-isolate will cease, as will the need to test daily if you have been a close contact of someone who has tested positive. From Monday 21 February, staff and students are no longer expected to take part in regular asymptomatic testing. The guidance now states that those who test positive should 'stay at home if you can and avoid contact with other people'. This relies on those who are symptomatic taking a test.

At Guilsborough, we will continue to support students who self-isolate for 5 days after they have tested positive. While the guidance remains in place to 'stay at home if you can' for those who test positive, absences due to self-isolation will be authorised. In order to do this, we will require confirmation of a positive Coronavirus test result. We will keep this under review.

While testing continues to be free, we encourage all who may have symptoms to obtain a COVID test. However, under the new guidance, this will not be compulsory and it will be up to individuals to make appropriate choices about their own health. Students who take time off without evidence of a positive test result will be required to provide evidence relating to their absence.

Finally, thank you for all your support over the past two years. I wrote to many of you prior to half-term regarding attendance and the challenge of improving this following the pandemic. I am pleased to say our attendance for the last two days has been higher than at any other time this year. While we still have work to do, the improvement is significant. Working together, I am confident we can achieve the ambitious targets we have set for ourselves.

Yours Faithfully

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