

8th October 2021

Dear families,

Re: Increased measures required to tackle local rise in COVID-19 cases

Since the start of this academic year, we have been monitoring cases of COVID-19 locally, alongside the Health Protection Hub, on a daily basis. Compared to figures across Telford and Wrekin our numbers have remained low. As a result, we have been able to implement small scale escalation plans, when and where patterns have emerged.

We are concerned however that cases are starting to rise at a more elevated rate. Having met with the Health Protection Hub yesterday evening it is felt that we will need to return to some of the measures we implemented during previous phases of the pandemic. I have highlighted these in the paragraphs below along with clarification on some points. This is not ideal, and it places undue strain on the systems and processes we have in place in school that help it to run efficiently on a daily basis. However, we must be mindful of the safety of our community. This is paramount.

All staff have attended a briefing on these changes and students have also been made aware. It is absolutely essential that students follow these new measures, as I am sure they will. Those who do not follow these expectancies and therefore put other members of the community's health at risk will find themselves facing strong consequences.

October 2021 COVID-19 escalation measure 1: Face masks

All staff and students will be expected to wear face coverings in the buildings at all times. They will also be expected to wear them on school transport.

October 2021 COVID-19 escalation measure 2: Staggered end to the day

Students will return to the staggered end to the day and shorter lunchtime. This means that period 6 will begin at 2.05pm. Students will leave the school site at the following times:

Year 7: 3.05pm
Year 8: 3.07pm
Year 9: 3.09pm
Year 10: 3.11pm
Year 11: 3.13pm

October 2021 COVID-19 escalation measure 3: Year group bubbles

Students were kept within year group bubbles as a precautionary measure from September. These will now though be re-enforced and strengthened, and the expectancy will be that students remain within their year group bubbles at all times. The only exception to this would be during clubs where there are multiple year groups attending. If this is the case, then the member of staff leading the activity will ensure that those attending remain within their own year group bubbles during the activity.



To ensure that these can be maintained within the canteen, students will access via different doors at breaktime and be encouraged to eat their purchased food in their designated year group social areas. If they choose to stay within the canteen there will be limited seating space and students will be expected to sit only in areas designated for their year group. At lunchtime, the queue will be staggered so that those in years 10 and 11 will have access between 1.35-1.45pm, and years 7,8,9 will have access from 1.45pm.

October 2021 COVID-19 escalation measure 4: Online meetings and assemblies

Face to face meetings with students are a fundamental part of spreading the important messages students need as they grow from children to young adults. However, in the short term, assemblies and other large gatherings will be completed online.

How long will these measures be in place for?

The plan is to run these up until half term and review at that point. It is more than likely that these measures will remain in place at the start of the new term, but we will continue to monitor cases daily to see if we need to either relax or increase them.

My child, and my whole family are now double jabbed, why do I need to follow these measures?

Vaccination limits the effects of COVID-19 and decreases the chance of transmission. However, it doesn't stop you getting it. Advice from the Health Protection Hub is that these measures are important to limit the chances of the school community contracting the illness and putting themselves at risk of potential long-lasting consequences.

What about clubs and fixtures?

These will continue to run as normal because there is limited cross year group interaction at these groups. Staff can also implement their own segregated areas within these clubs to ensure that bubbles are maintained.

What about visitors to the school and external agencies?

Visitors will still be allowed to enter the school but will be expected to wear masks in line with the wider school community. Our external providers such as our counsellors and careers service will continue to function as per usual.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Morgan
Acting Principal



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