

19th May 2021

Dear Families,

As you may be aware, a few Covid-19 cases were recently identified at our school.

These have now been confirmed by Public Health England as being one of the Covid-19 Indian variants. Public Health England is working with us and Telford & Wrekin Council to monitor the situation closely.

All necessary public health interventions are being undertaken. All cases are self-isolating or have isolated and extended contact tracing is taking place to trace their contacts and ask them to self-isolate.

Students and staff are also required to continue to wear face coverings in school.

Through these prompt actions, we are confident that the infection is being well contained.

As an extra precaution and to further minimise the risk of it spreading in the wider community, we are now strongly encouraging all students, their extended families and support bubbles to take a PCR Covid-19 test. The advice we have received tells us that, while the Covid-19 Indian variant is considered more transmissible, there is no firm evidence yet to show this variant has any greater impact on severity of disease or evades the vaccine.

To make it easier for people to get tested, a new testing centre will open in Newport from today, 19 May - at Shuker Playing Fields, Sports and Social Club, Barnmeadow Road, TF10 7TP. Opening times are Monday to Friday, 11am-6pm and 9am-3pm over the weekends. You can drop in between the opening times - no appointments needed, but queues may be possible so please plan.

If it is more convenient, you can book an appointment on www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test at other PCR testing sites across the borough. When completing the booking form, in the section "Why are you getting tested?", please select the option "My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms."

Please get tested even if you (or any of your family members) have been vaccinated and even if you are not displaying any symptoms – as you could still have the virus and spread it without knowing. You and your family will not have to self-isolate prior to receiving the results of the PCR test, if you all have no symptoms.

I would also ask you to play your part and continue observing Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air; have your vaccine when offered and reduce your social interactions whenever possible by working from home and mixing with as few people as possible.

A “drop and collect “service is also being considered, where students will be given PCR test kits by school for the families to use. I will be sending more information about this in the coming days.

Our school continues to be open as normal and is a safe place. We have discussed the controls we have in place with Public Health England and Telford & Wrekin Council. Both have told us that they have confidence in the Covid secure measures the school has.

We understand that this letter may be concerning for you. If you have any queries then please contact Telford and Wrekin Council’s Health Protection Hub, email healthprotectionhub@telford.gov.uk .

Testing will, in combination with taking up the opportunity to be vaccinated when offered and with following the Covid-safety guidance, help to control outbreaks and safely keep track of the virus.

Thank you for working with us to keep our community safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Carter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Krissi Carter
Principal