

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that all our families have been able to enjoy some sort of Christmas break and are looking forward to the start of a new school term. We are aware that illness has impacted many families and as we start 2022 we want to share with parents the key measures that we will need to follow to ensure that we protect our school community from any further Covid-19 transmission.

On site-testing for students as they return to school.

All students have been informed of their appointment dates and times for their Covid-19 test before their return to the classroom. This information was emailed to parents on **16th December**. Please can parents check the information and ensure that their child attends the **Green Room** for testing. Students should not arrive too early as the appointment times ensure that this is a staggered approach. If parents have not yet consented - then please use this link:

<https://www.chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk/parents/consent-form>

Working on MS Teams

From Wednesday 5th January those Year groups who are learning from home, as they are await their Covid tests, will be able to access their lessons and additional work via MS Teams. This means that Years 8-10 should attend their virtual assembly on MS Teams at 8.30am on Wednesday morning; Year teams will help support students with their online learning and the organisation for the day ahead. On Thursday morning, Years 8 and 9 should do the same again - given the staggered return.

MS Teams will continue to be used in coming weeks so that any students who are absent due to self-isolation will then be able to access their work as teachers will upload all materials on the Teams site.

Face Coverings

As students return to school, they will be **required to wear face coverings whilst in school. This will apply to classrooms as well communal area, as instructed by the Department of Education.** We believe that this measure will be in place till at least 26th January, when it will be reviewed.

Please can you make sure that students bring a face covering with them each day.

Students who are unwell

We ask that **if your child is unwell or they have any symptoms then they do not attend school.** The most recent information and guidance has changed over the past few weeks.

- The **most common symptoms** of the Omicron variant are now reported as: a running nose, headaches, fatigue, sneezing and sore throats. This has widened from the classic three symptoms of 'fever, cough, or loss of sense of smell or taste', that we have all looked out for previously. If your child is displaying these symptoms, then it would be advisable to take a test.
- **If students have Covid-19** they **may** be able to end their self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. They can take a lateral flow test (LFT) from 6 days after the day their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day (day 7). The second LFT test should be taken at least 24 hours later. **If both these LFT test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end self-isolation after the second negative test result** and be able to attend school on Day 8.
- The LFD test results should be reported after **each test** - www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

Regular LFT testing

Over the last half term, we really noticed how effective regular home testing by students was. This has enabled us to identify asymptomatic positive cases and, therefore, reduce transmission in schools. This approach will be vital over the next few weeks as we know that the transmission rates are very high and are rising in our community.

- We suggest that students continue to **routinely take the self-test twice a week**, on a Sunday evening before returning to school on Monday and again on a Wednesday evening. This will ensure a higher level of safety for everybody.
- When you have the result from the test please upload the results to www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result
 - Please note that if your child tests positive on a home test – **they need to go for a PCR test**. This can be booked using this link: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
 - **Please also inform school of any positive result via attendance@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk**

Household contacts who are positive

If there is someone in your household with Covid-19, students are not legally required to self-isolate, however they are strongly advised to:

- **take an LFT test every day for 7 days before they attend school**, or until 10 days after the household member who has Covid-19 started their self-isolation period if this is earlier.

Contingency plan due to high levels of staff absence

We are concerned that there **may** come a point in the coming weeks where we are no longer able to offer full provision in school for all Year groups. Obviously, we will do our very best to avoid this situation, however, we also feel that it right to be open with parents about this as a potential issue.

If we are faced with this situation then we will be asking for one or two Year groups to work from home for a short period of time.

This decision will not be made lightly and will only be considered following discussion with the Trust and the Local Authority.

If this does happen, then classwork would be set via MS Teams and depending on staff absence, we would aim to deliver some live lessons each day in core subjects. We would strive to ensure that no Year group was impacted for more than one week at any one time. Where possible we would wish to protect Year 11 and keep them in school, due to the fact that they are in their examination year; equally we would try to maintain Year 7 attendance given they are our youngest students.

We have shared this contingency measure information with parents now to keep you informed. As stated, we will do everything we can to ensure our students remain in school fully over the coming weeks. Obviously due to the nature of illness we cannot foresee what will happen, and should the occasion arise the school will give parents as much notice as practically possible.

Thank you to parents for your support in advance as we continue to face ongoing challenges and try to find workable solutions in respect of the current public health situation.

Yours sincerely,
Chorlton High School.