

21st May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a school, we are working hard to follow guidance on how to limit the spread of Covid. Like you, we read much in the press and online about new variants and we want to ensure that we all get to enjoy the benefits of coming out of lockdown. School is the one place that large numbers of families meet and mix every day. We have a responsibility to do what we can to keep school running normally, but we must do this within the confines of our legal obligations to engage with tracing procedures. We have been working closely with the Public Health team at Lancashire to ensure we are sharing the right information.

On the last 3 days we have had a small number of students test positive on their LFD test at home. These have then been confirmed by PCR tests. We have then identified the close contacts and informed them that they are to isolate for 10 days. Once identified as a contact, the isolation cannot be overridden by a negative test and the full 10-day period must be observed. This is a public health directive, not a school decision. It is unpleasant to do but we are so grateful to the families who have accepted the news in good faith. The limitations placed by isolation are unpleasant but are part of limiting the spread of Covid. We are expected to follow the government's guidance, and this states clearly that we should follow Public Health advice.

If your child is identified as a close contact, you will be contacted and will receive a further email explaining the process and access to any support.

We will provide work at home via Teams and will try to follow our procedures set out at <https://www.lythamhigh.lancs.sch.uk/our-remote-learning-strategy>. However, I will continue to ask for patience and understanding as the school is trying to finalise Year 11 grades, manage staff absence through isolation as well as maintain the most normal school experience we can!

In the meantime, we have been asked to reissue reminders about HANDS, FACE and SPACE. We will be asking students to sanitise regularly, and we will maintain our increased cleaning regime. You already know that we are asking for facemasks to be worn in communal areas, but we will also be reiterating the need for sensible behaviour and potential changes to our routines at very short notice. We are trying to avoid any major changes in school and hopefully we can work towards understanding how we live sensibly with Covid. I have attached a copy of a flow chart showing the steps to follow when LFD testing at home, which I hope you find useful.

Thank you again for your understanding and support.

Your sincerely,



Mr Baker

Headteacher