



30 November 2021

Dear parents, guardians and carers

Prior to the news about the new variant and following a further increase in Covid cases in the local area, Public Health, Dorset advised all schools to exercise further preventative measures once again. Within school, we have seen an increase in positive PCR test results in the last fortnight in all year groups and among staff members. Thankfully, we have avoided being at a point where a partial closure was needed, though we were not far from it. It is essential therefore that pupils continue with Lateral Flow Tests at least twice weekly at home. If a member of your household tests positive, the rest of the house should test daily. **However, a more detailed account of changes we need your support with is attached to this letter.**

Following this advice more closely and to do the best we can to ensure we get to Christmas safely, it has been necessary to draw back from some of the Christmas festivities that were planned in line with the advice received. Sadly therefore, we have had to cancel the carol service events at St. Mary's parish as well as the Christmas Concert on 3rd December. **A separate letter will be sent to those who have paid.** A recording of the dress rehearsal will be made available. The table below provides an outline of events that **are still going ahead**. Please note that a decision is still to be made about the pantomime at Poole Lighthouse.

W/c 29th November	Year 10 BTEC Mocks (in class)
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 12/13 BTEC Diagnostic Exams
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INSET school closed to students
W/c 6th December	Y7 Careers Focus week Sixth Form interview week for Year 11
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 7 to 11 flu immunisations catch up
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 7 to 11 flu immunisations catch up
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 8 virtual Parent evening 4pm to 7pm
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foodbank collection – minibuses at start of school day details on the following link: Foodbank 2021 Year 11 off timetable Lesson 4 for Sixth Form event Sixth form students finish school 12.15pm
W/c 13th December	Last week of Autumn Term
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foodbank collection – minibuses at start of school day Last day FOPHS -The Big PTA Christmas Raffle. Follow this link to access the Parentkind Poole High page and purchase your tickets: PTA Christmas Raffle
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marginal Gains Session 3 P1-5 Delivery of donations to Poole Foodbank
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas lunch in the Main Dining Hall
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 and Year 8 trip to Poole Lighthouse for the Pantomime
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas themed non-uniform day – Suggested £1 donation to FOPHS (collection at front gate by SLT in buckets). Accessorise non-uniform with Christmas hats, jumpers and accessories. 12.15pm all students to P4 lesson for registration 12.30pm Students dismissed and school closes (lunch available for Free School Meal students).

Sonar Magazine

Please can I draw your attention to the information in the school newsletter which will be released via a text link w/c 13 December which celebrates so much of the activity in school this term. It also has some important guidance regarding the spring term.

Friday 17 December, school will close at 12.30pm for the Christmas holiday. Students that have Free School Meal provision will be notified accordingly.

Also, on **Friday 17 December** we will be asking parents to support students with a Christmas themed non-uniform day – Suggested donation to the Friends of Poole High School (collection at front gate by SLT in buckets). We recommend that students accessorise non-uniform with Christmas hats, jumpers and appropriate festive paraphernalia. A suggested contribution of £1 from each participant to support FOPHS will be appreciated. Please note that the on-site school buses (with the exception of route 401) will not be available on 18 December and students will need to use the local bus routes.

Extreme weather

A reminder that in the unlikely event of school closure due to extreme weather conditions, a school text/email will be sent out to parents, a message will be placed on the school website, the school will notify the Borough of Poole as well as local radio stations (Heart and Wave 105).

Medication for students in the Main School, Year 7-11

Polite reminder that any medication required in school time must be left in the medical room, in the original container with a permission note from parents. It is school policy that students are not permitted to carry them on themselves with the exception of pre-arranged Epi Pens and asthma inhalers.

The **Spring Term** will begin at 8.25am on Wednesday 5 January 2022. Please ensure that your son/daughter arrives promptly to school each day, ready to start at 8.25am in full school uniform and has a fully equipped pencil case including a calculator.

As always, thank you for working with us and your commitment in making our community such a special place. We wish you all a peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gray
Headteacher



Important Appendix for Parents

As mentioned in the previous letter, we have received strong advice to raise our preventative measures across the school to ensure our whole community is safer in light of the heightened assessment of risk locally and nationally. We have distilled this information for you as follows:

TESTING

- All children WITHOUT SYMPTOMS must test twice a week and log their result on BOTH the government portal and the school link **regardless of result**. Both links can be found [here](#).
- If your child has any symptoms please book a PCR test and ensure your child isolates until the result. Please do not rely simply on LFT if you have symptoms.
- If your child is identified as a 'close contact' and **does not have any symptoms**, they need to be taken for a PCR test. They **may attend school awaiting a result**. If the close contact lives in the same household even if asymptomatic, please use lateral flow tests daily.
- If your child is identified as a close contact of an omicron case, track and trace will ask them to isolate for ten days regardless of vaccination status or age.

FACE COVERINGS

- Masks must be worn on public transport as previously stated.
- Masks will continue to be worn in communal areas and when arriving and leaving school
- **We will expect masks to be worn in class this week (2nd and 3rd December). This will then be reviewed.**

CONTROL MEASURES

- Please encourage the continuous use of hand sanitiser and hand washing.
- Classroom ventilation will continue to be expected. Children are therefore recommended to wear a non-visible, base-layer T shirt under their school shirt. Compromise of uniform standards will not be tolerated. [See here](#).
- The school will determine if it is appropriate in certain classrooms for coats to be worn. Hoodies as usual cannot be worn on site.
- An enhanced cleaning regime will continue across the school during the school day.

REDUCED MIXING

- We shall suspend assemblies and large gatherings on site especially where cross-year group activities occur.
- After school clubs and trips will be assessed on an individual basis.
- All non-essential visitors to the site will be re-directed to virtual communication.