



# SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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**Chair of Governors:** Susan Dungworth

**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

22 October 2021

Good afternoon

I hope you are all well? Can I first of all thank the young people of the Federation and yourselves for the great start we have had to the year. It was always going to seem strange returning to a near normal system of schooling but we have achieved it and a lot of that is due to the efforts and attitudes of the vast majority of our students and the support we have had from you as well.

The staff, both teaching and support, have done their very best to ensure that the schools have been great places to attend and that quality teaching and learning has been taking place. I would like to thank them for all their efforts this half term.

There have been challenges this term but once again we have overcome them and we should be proud of how well the federation as a whole has done. I do think we are all ready for a holiday!

I don't think any of us can have missed the fact that Covid is still out in the community and having a big impact on us. This afternoon I received a letter from the Local Authority and Public Health England informing me and other headteachers that due to the rise in covid numbers we were being advised to implement a number of measures to control the rise in numbers. These measures needed to be in place by the 1st November 2021. I have attached the letter from NCC/Public Health along with this one.

However, we have to be realistic that certain measures are needed and therefore I am sharing with you the list of measures that we have been asked to implement. I must be clear and say we are NOT implementing all the measures. We don't have time to plan for them and actually we don't think it is the right thing to do.

Therefore, you will see that certain measures are not highlighted. These measures we will NOT implement at the moment. The measures that are highlighted green we will look to implement from Monday 1st November 2021.

You will see one of these measures is that pupils in years 7 to 13 return to wearing masks in communal areas. I know that this is not ideal but it is better we do that than have to take other more drastic measures. If you do not wish your child to wear a mask in communal areas I would be grateful if you could write this into their planner/diary. That way if asked why they are not wearing a face covering they will be able to show the message from you. There are some things which are highlighted yellow. These are measures that we are not yet sure about because for some meetings face to face or in a group is needed whereas some can be online. The decisions around this will be made on a case by case basis. You will also see the measure about teaching from the front is highlighted yellow. This is because it is the view of SLT that it is the decision of the teacher if they stand at the front or walk around the classroom. If a teacher does decide to walk around the classroom then it has been recommended that they wear a mask when doing this.

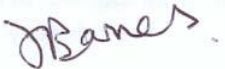
I am sorry I am dropping all this information onto you on the last day of term but we have only received the information ourselves very late.

I feel that we have taken a balanced approach to the things we have been asked to do. We will of course update risk assessments etc to reflect these changes. I would like to encourage you and your family to continue testing regularly as this can help us in the ongoing fight against this virus. With regard to vaccinations of children aged 12 to 15 we hold no view on that. Whilst we have been asked to encourage you to take up this opportunity I am aware that this is totally your choice and I do not feel it is my position to influence you in this matter either way.

We will continue to monitor and review the situation and if circumstances require take further action.

Once again thank you for all support this half term and I hope you have a good holiday.

Yours sincerely



John Barnes  
Executive Headteacher

### **Measures for all schools and year groups**

- Stopping face-to-face whole school staff meetings
- If not already in place, re-introducing social distancing between staff, including staff rooms and other times staff are in contact (e.g. in offices)
- Moving non-essential events where parents / carers visit school to online meetings e.g parents evening, open days.
- Assessing whether non-essential visits to the school should be postponed
- Re-introducing COVID-19 management for PE lessons and changing e.g outdoor sports prioritised or where this isn't possible large indoor spaces are used.
- Staggering lunch and start and finish times
- Ensuring any visits out of school are subject to full and thorough risk assessment taking into account public health advice. Where there is an outbreak, visits out of school are to be postponed, unless a strong justification process eliminates the risk of transmission within the visiting group
- Check that school transport seating plans (year groupings) are in place and being adhered to.
- Reminding and encouraging staff to undertake twice weekly lateral flow tests, and more frequently if they are specifically asked to do so
- Re-introducing any other COVID-secure controls that you found effective last academic year including ventilation, cleaning and enhanced hand hygiene.
- Promoting vaccination to staff and eligible pupils. Encourage staff who are not fully vaccinated to complete course and boosters as staff become eligible
- Encouraging pupils, staff and parents to follow national guidance for all close contacts of a COVID-19 positive case and access a PCR test at COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)).
- Encouraging household close contacts of a case of COVID-19 (who are exempt from isolation and may continue to attend school) to carry out daily lateral flow testing for 10 days after the onset of symptoms (or from the date of the positive test if asymptomatic) of the case in their household, and only attend school if their lateral flow test is negative.

### **Measures for Years 5 and 6**

- Limiting cross over between staff

## **Measures for Year 7 to 13**

- Introduce measures to reduce mixing between groups of pupils (e.g between year groups) where this doesn't severely impact on education/teaching/learning.

- Advise all adults and pupils in year 7 and above to wear a face covering in all communal areas unless exempt

- Reintroducing staff teaching from the front of the class with a 2m distance to pupils