

Could I also ask parents for their patience as we, like so many other organisations, struggle with staff absence at this time. Our response times will be longer than usual at the moment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Cooke". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mr S Cooke
Headteacher

22 November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to provide an update with regard to the number of COVID-19 cases within the academy. It is no surprise that in the period following a school holiday and as the temperature has turned colder, we are experiencing a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases amongst both staff and students. Fortunately, the vast majority of both staff and students who test positive are experiencing mild or very mild symptoms and are returning to the academy fit and well at the end of the period of self-isolation. I am writing to remind parents of the steps that you can help us to take in order to reduce risks for the school community.

Face Coverings

We have advised staff (and students in Y7 and above) to wear face coverings around school. We cannot force or insist on this, as this would be in breach of current Government guidelines, but we can strongly encourage face coverings to be worn (particularly during the winter months). The academy has only a limited stock of face coverings and we are therefore requesting children provide their own face covering.

Twice Weekly Testing

All colleagues and children in years 7-11 should be testing twice weekly using lateral flow devices, unless they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days. If this is positive, a PCR test should be taken and if positive a self-isolation period of 10 days follows. These tests are intended to stop asymptomatic individuals coming into school and spreading the virus. Children have been offered supplies of these tests in school each week for the last twelve months and we will continue to do so.

Vaccination

The academy has a neutral view point on vaccination of children; however, I have been asked to remind you that children aged 12+ can now obtain a vaccine by booking through the NHS online system.

Ensuring children remain in school and educated is our number one priority and in some year groups case rates are still very low, but we have seen a rise in some year groups hence the importance of sending this message now. It is important to note that most of the cases in school do not appear to be linked and seem to be as a result of wider community transmission.