



**THE WESTLEIGH SCHOOL**  
Aspiring & Achieving Together

**HEADTEACHER: MR CARLTON BRAMWELL** *BEd (Hons), MSc, NPQH*



4 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Covid Updates for students return on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

I hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful half term break and we look forward to seeing our students back in school next week.

We are now in a position to make you aware of the GM-wide advice on face coverings ahead of the return to school on the 7<sup>th</sup> June which has been shared with us today along with further guidance due to the following update:

*Across Greater Manchester, case rates have increased considerably in all boroughs in the last fortnight, with the exception of Bolton where rates have remained very high. All GM boroughs are within the top 20 nationally, and 9 of the top 20 MSOAs are in GM. At present, Wigan is the 22<sup>nd</sup> highest borough in the country in terms of prevalence.*

*The doubling time (the number of days it takes for the number of COVID-19 cases to double) for all boroughs in GM is approximately 1 week (with the exception of Bolton where rates are reducing). This exponential rise in cases is reflective of the high transmissibility of the Delta variant (previously known as the Indian variant) as well as increased mixing and movement within and between areas linked to the relaxation of lockdown measures.*

*All areas of GM now have a high probability of being in an epidemic phase, meaning that we are seeing an exponential rise in prevalence.*

### **Face Coverings**

In relation to the use of face coverings in Wigan, schools and colleges Kate Arden – Director of Public Health is now recommending that, where pupils in Year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils when outdoors on the premises. As before, some pupils will be exempt from wearing face coverings, and schools should take this into account. Further information on face coverings, including exemptions, can be found via this [link](#).

For secondary schools and further education settings, staff should wear face coverings in all indoor environments – including classrooms – where 2m social distancing cannot be maintained during lessons.

---

The Westleigh School, Westleigh Lane, Leigh, Lancashire WN7 5NL

Tel: 01942 202580 Web: [www.thewestleighschool.co.uk](http://www.thewestleighschool.co.uk) Email: [enquiries@admin.westleigh.wigan.s](mailto:enquiries@admin.westleigh.wigan.s)   
@TheWestleighSchool

### **Testing**

We are not required at this time to reintroduce lateral flow testing in school, but we are strongly encouraging all staff, students and their households to test twice weekly to reduce the risk of spread through asymptomatic contact. Where a member of your family has symptoms they should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible and follow NHS isolation guidance.

### **Control measures and Risk Assessments**

We will continue to follow all existing control measure as set out in your setting's COVID risk assessment which are reviewed on a regular basis in line with government advice.

We understand that these messages are difficult to receive and that you, as much as us, want a return to normal as soon as possible, however we must follow guidance provided and do all we can together to keep our community safe.

Yours Sincerely



Mr C Bramwell  
**Headteacher**