

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

Date: 2nd November 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I, along with all Secondary Headteachers in the Wigan Borough, have today received a letter from Cath Pealing, Assistant Director of Education and Kate Arden, Director of Public Health.

The letter acknowledges that COVID-19 prevalence is high in areas of the Borough at present, particularly amongst the 12-19 year old cohort. Alongside the current measures in place in school, the Local Authority and Public Health are now strongly recommending education settings across Wigan encourage the wearing of face coverings in communal areas for staff, visitors and students (year 7 and above), with immediate effect.

This should help to ensure that children and young people can continue to receive education in as normal a way as possible. They have carefully considered this decision in particular, considering that this measure will; have minimal impact on education, will be effective in reducing risk of transmission, and will support accelerated vaccine roll out.

Our control measures are strong and positive cases here at The Westleigh School have remained low and manageable since our return in September. We did however see a gradual increase towards the end of half term and, on our return, are still receiving a small number of daily notifications from parents and staff of symptoms, LFT and PCR positive results. These are reviewed and managed daily in line with our Outbreak Management Plan.

With this in mind and in support of the Public Health recommendation, **we are requesting that all students revert to the wearing of masks with immediate effect from tomorrow, 3rd November 2021, in communal areas and where social distancing is difficult i.e. corridors, canteen queues, movement around school etc.** The wearing of masks is not recommended in classrooms at this point and any wearing of face coverings beyond this measure would still require Director of Public Health sign off.

We understand that a transition back to mask wearing in school will be a challenge especially for our students, and we ask for your support to help them understand the need to protect themselves, our Westleigh family and our community by following this guidance which will hopefully help limit the spread of Covid and prevent further measures being required.

We ask therefore that you ensure your child attends school from tomorrow, 3rd November 2021, with a clean mask daily until further notice.

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How to stop COVID-19 spreading

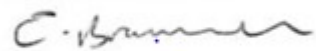
There are other things you can continue to do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds;
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available;
- wash your hands as soon as you get home;
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze;
- allow ventilation in the house through opening windows;
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

Yours sincerely,



Carlton Bramwell

Headteacher