



THE WESTLEIGH SCHOOL
Aspiring & Achieving Together

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

9th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carer,

Latest COVID Updates

On Wednesday 8 December, the Prime Minister announced the implementation of [Plan B of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan](#), to reduce pressure on the NHS. Plan B sets out a number of additional measures across society to control transmission of COVID-19.

The Government is clear on the critical importance of not disrupting the education of children and young people and the Government will prioritise keeping all education and childcare settings open.

The measures set out below will support this.

Attendance

School attendance remains mandatory and all the usual rules continue to apply. Enabling children and young people to attend their education setting regularly continues to be a national priority.

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn by pupils and students in year 7 and above (which would be children who were aged 11 on 31 August 2021), staff and visitors in communal areas, unless exempt. This is a temporary measure. Pupils and students in year 7 and above in these settings must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school, college, or higher education provider.

At the current time, we expect our students to see their mask as part of their uniform as they would their tie or blazer and this will still be the case when we return after Christmas.

Our students are, on the whole, very supportive of this requirement and we thank you for helping them by providing them with masks until the rules change, unless they are exempt, in which case a pass will be issued.

Vaccinations

We were extremely proud of those students who received their vaccination in school this week, their patience due to a delayed start and their maturity shown towards the NHS team was exemplary.

Unfortunately, the vaccination team were unable to deliver vaccines to all students due to a delay in their equipment arriving at school. This led to some Year 7-10 students being missed and all Year 11 students being cancelled. We are awaiting an update from the team if they will be able to return to do a mop up, or if students will need to attend a local vaccination clinic to receive their vaccine. We will update you as soon as we can.

Reminder: Post Christmas Testing in School

Testing of students (for those with consent) will take place in school the day after planned Inset (4th January) on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

School will therefore be closed on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 4th January: Closed to all students**
- **Wednesday 5th January: Closed to all students, except to attend for Covid testing**

In order to stagger testing and help manage queues, we ask students to attend between the following times:

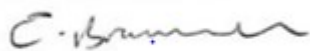
- 9.30am – 11.00am – Key stage 3 (Year 7, 8 and 9)
- 11.30am – 12.30pm – Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11)

Siblings may attend together and if unable to attend at their allocated time, can attend the other session. We will keep the testing site open until 1.30pm in case of need.

If you have already consented, it is not necessary to provide consent again. If you have not yet consented to testing but wish your child to be tested in school on this or future occasions as needed, please complete the online form here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KA6k2TETM3CHbPoxc6b6Del-aWxFy4erUPDv8S3Oyl/edit>

Yours sincerely,



Carlton Bramwell
Headteacher