

25 June 2021



Dear Families

Just a brief update as we approach the weekend.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate one of our sixth formers, Kaitlyn Sheppard, who became the England National Champion for 3000m last weekend. Kaitlyn is an exceptional young lady both in and out of the classroom. She dedicates much of her free time to her passion for running and this is a quite splendid accomplishment and very richly deserved. We also have another young lady, Saffron O'Brien Y11, also worthy of special mention. Saffron has recently received her U17 England Women's football cap. This, too, is an amazing achievement and testimony to all her hard work, the support of her family and the dedication of all her coaches. We wish her well for the future and will be sure to keep our eyes peeled as she progresses still further.

In more mundane matters, this week has seen a further increase in young people testing positive for Covid both here, in our local junior schools and across the country. Earlier this week, the media reported that over 250,000 children had been isolating from school last week and I suspect this figure will be larger when next reported. Last week there were 170 cases per 100,000 people in the Tewkesbury area compared to a national average in England of 67. You may remember that this figure was a mere 3 per 100,000 on May 28 when we entered the half-term holiday. Whilst hospitalisations and deaths remain low, the number of young people being infected is clearly on the rise.

We have significant numbers of children in Y8 and Y9 who have tested positive for Covid. Both those years are currently accessing their lessons remotely until Monday July 5. Both Y7 and Y12 are currently virus-free with only two confirmed cases in Y10. One Y10 class and associated close contacts have also been isolating this week as a result of those cases.

Students with Covid are experiencing little more than common cold symptoms **BUT** they have the potential to infect others and the implications for members of our school, your families and the wider community remain very significant.

Together, we need to ensure that **ALL STUDENTS** in **ALL** year groups self-test on Sunday **BUT ALSO REPORT** the result to the school using the form which has been enormously simplified. Students in school are being provided with additional self-testing kits and these are available for collection from Main Reception during the course of next week for Y8 and Y9 families should they have run out.

On the students return to school next week and the subsequent week, if we are told that a student's test has happened but it has **NOT** been reported to the school we will test them again to reassure our whole school community. It is a sufficiently unpleasant experience to do once, never mind twice, so please ensure your child is both tested at home on **SUNDAY** and that the result is recorded on the link -

Click [here to access the form](#)

During this week, I have met twice with officials from Public Health England and our local health protection team from Gloucestershire County Council. They were pleased with how the school was managing positive cases and

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with the controls in place in school. I attach a link to a letter from Gloucestershire County Council [HERE](#) which offers further explanation and guidance for parents/carers.

I would also like to remind you that this coming **Monday 28 June is an INSET day** and therefore no remote learning will take place. Those students who are in year groups that are currently self isolating should ensure that they are not out of their home environment socialising with peers.

These are difficult and unprecedented times for you and your families. I offer you my very best wishes and assure you that we are doing everything we can to maintain high quality education in a safe environment.

As always, thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. M. Watson', written in a cursive style.

**Mr G M Watson**  
**Headteacher**