

28 February 2022



Dear Families

Today, we enter the second half of the academic year in the wake of Storm Eunice, localised flooding, the removal of COVID restrictions and an unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. So much has happened since I last updated you only 10 days ago.

The purpose of this brief update is simply to clarify the position regarding COVID in schools. Whilst the Prime Minister's announced last week that there is no longer any legal requirement for people with COVID to isolate, the firm guidance from UK health authorities is that individuals testing positive continue to be advised to self-isolate. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) makes the following points about schools and children:

"Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take a lateral flow test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature."

"Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend their setting as normal."

In simple terms we are in the same position as we were previously except that we are following guidance rather than a mandatory, legal instruction. If your child has COVID they should stay off school as indicated above. If someone in your household other than your child has COVID then your child is still free to attend school if they are not displaying symptoms.

Schools will no longer be routinely issuing COVID test kits nor asking children/staff to report their COVID status.

Today sees the start of Y11 mock examinations, with Y13 mock examinations following on from next Monday. These exams continue to be of critical importance. Whilst the hope and expectation is that exams will take place 'as normal' in the summer, students who perhaps fall ill at an inopportune time may still need to rely on their performance in these exams as evidence to support a centre assessed grade.

School is thus operating very much as 'normal' with Y9 students off to the Imperial War Museum on Thursday, sporting fixtures recommencing and all extra-curricular activities very much back on the agenda. Do please encourage your children to get involved in the vast range of clubs and societies on offer.

This Friday sees our Careers and Apprenticeship Fair for Y10-Y13 students. A wide variety of organisations will be represented during the day to expose your children to the range of opportunities that await them in the world of work. Attendance at schools up and down the country has taken a considerable hit in the last two years. We are making every effort to help young people catch up on lost time but please do ensure your child's attendance remains a key priority.

Yours sincerely

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