



2 September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will already be aware, the DFE guidance for schools this year in relation to COVID-19 has significantly changed and this was communicated in my previous letter to you. I would like to take this opportunity to share some key information in relation to COVID-19, our campus approach and how you can support the school in the coming term.

It is vital that any student displaying symptoms is not sent to school and remains at home until a PCR test is sought and the results returned. The full list of symptoms can be found [here](#) but it is worth mentioning that typical cold and flu symptoms have increasingly been seen as indicators for COVID-19 on our campus.

A key measure in reducing transmission is the twice weekly testing at home, using the Lateral Flow Test kits that have been supplied by school. Additional kits can be supplied via the NHS using the link [here](#).

Results of tests must be logged on this Google form - [BGLC Covid Test Result](#) which can also be found on our website. Please also call or email our Reception team to report any positive lateral flow or PCR tests.

The guidance around who must isolate when they have come into close contact has significantly changed especially for school children and this clearly may impact on the number of cases we see. The latest guidance can be found [here](#) but those who have been double jabbed or under the age of 18 no longer need to isolate, but are advised to seek a PCR test as a precautionary measure.

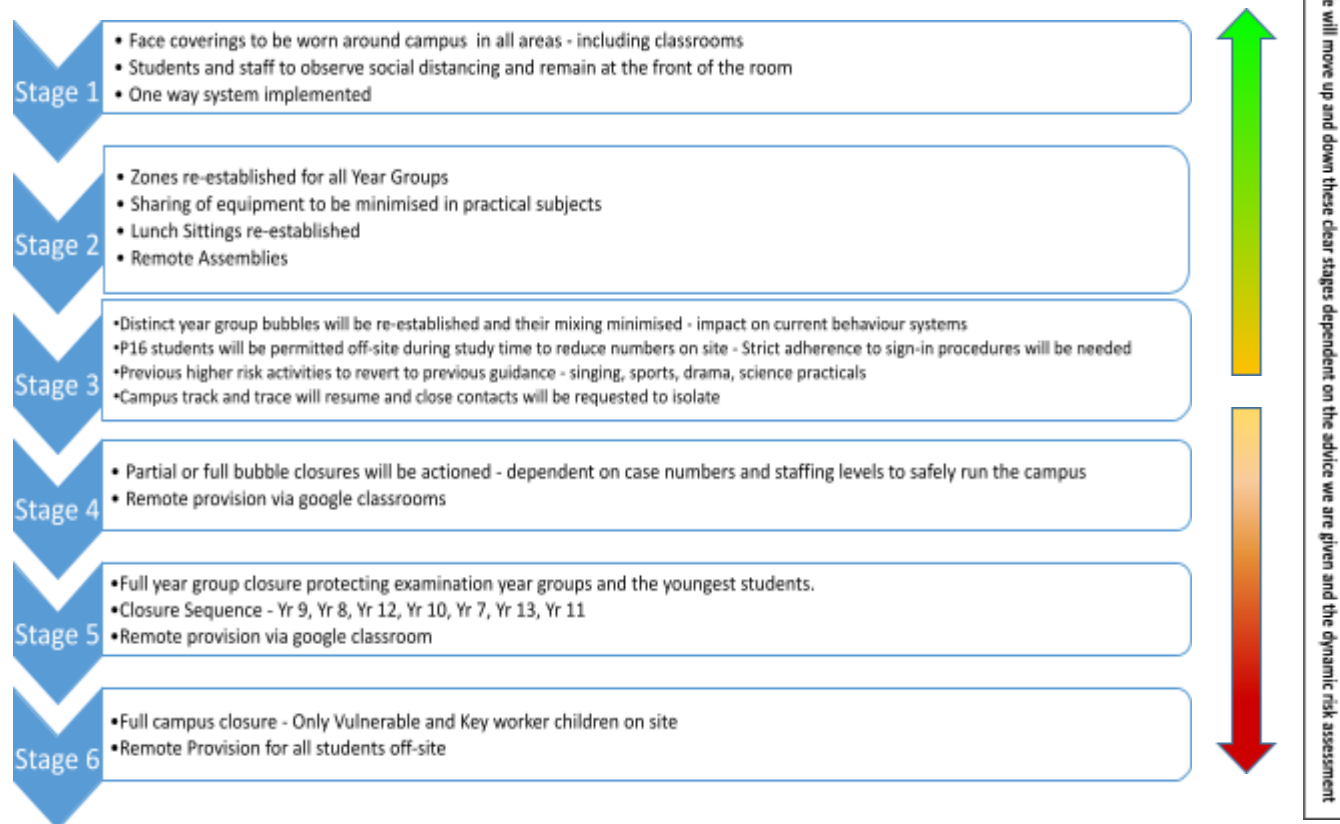
There has been much discussion about vaccination and some students especially those in Post 16 are now eligible, vaccinations can be booked [here](#). Some students who may live with Clinically Extremely Vulnerable family members or themselves are vulnerable may also be eligible for a vaccination over the age of 12, full guidance is available [here](#).

As a campus we have followed the latest guidance and will work closely with the LA, PHE and DFE in the coming weeks. We have created our own Outbreak Management Plan in accordance with the guidance and this is summarised below:

COVID Outbreak Management Plan BGLC 2021

Should the thresholds be met as outlined in the latest [Contingency Framework](#) we will work in close partnership with PHE, LA and DFE to decide an appropriate course of action across our campus.

All actions will be communicated with key stakeholders and staged approaches shared in advance.



In accordance with the guidance we will move up and down the stages, taking account of:

- Cases within the campus
- Transmission within the campus
- Local case numbers
- Local transmission rates
- Guidance from the Local Health Protection Team
- LA Guidance due to county levels
- DFE Guidance as a result of a significant national rise.

We have clearly entered a different phase of the pandemic as communicated by the government and there is much agreement amongst the scientific world that we will see cases rise when schools return. We are planning for that and hope we can manage the situation in accordance with the guidance and keep our community as safe as possible. That said, I appreciate that this will be a worrying time for some families and we will continue to do all we can as a school to support our families.

Last year I was very clear that I wished to remain open, honest and transparent with all our stakeholders about the situation on campus and we plan to do the same this year. Experience has

taught that emailing daily cases become overwhelming and creates undue anxiety, it is therefore our intention to share and publish weekly figures for all year groups and the campus as a whole. We will continue to alert all close contacts as an additional safety measure beyond the guidance, so parents and carers can make informed choices.

	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
w/c 23/8	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
w/c 30/8	3	0	2	3	7	1	1

I have already spoken to our Local Health Protection Team about the cases we have seen. It is extremely difficult to establish with certainty where transmission has occurred, as students are now mixing more freely outside of school, sports clubs have been reinstated and families have been away on holiday etc. At the time of writing this letter we are as confident as we can be that the cases above are not a result of significant transmission on campus but clearly we will be monitoring the situation carefully in the coming weeks.

A simple measure that is proven to be impactful is the wearing of a face covering and I would at this stage encourage their continued use. It is vital all children have a face covering on campus as we expect they are worn:

- Attending Assemblies
- Lining up in Canteens
- P16 Common Rooms
- Travel to school on buses or public transport.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the school but we hope the information above is of use and helps keep our community safe and your child's education uninterrupted.

Yours sincerely



W Teece
Headteacher