



9 September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

From the outset of the pandemic we have always sought to be open and honest about the number of cases on our campus and in that regard we plan to do the same. Since our return to campus we have had 60 positive COVID 19 cases and this has been spread across all year groups.

We know a number of these have been detected as a result of our onsite mass testing and also the twice weekly testing at home, but some students have become symptomatic leading to a positive PCR result.

I met with the Public Health England and the Local Authority this week to discuss our rising cases and next steps as part of the Outbreak Management Plan. At this meeting our Chair of Trustees was present alongside our Business Director to ensure the campus was well represented. In this meeting the following information was conveyed:

- Cases have risen significantly both locally and nationally and a number of schools across the Local Authority have seen a similar increase in the number of cases. These Outbreak meetings have already happened in a number of schools with more planned. They anticipated that other counties that have returned later than Leicestershire would see similar case rises.
- With the easing of restrictions it is very difficult to ascertain if transmission has occurred within the school or within the community but we have shared all our data and they will be analysing this carefully to look for any potential connections between cases. A site visit will also be conducted to highlight any ways we can further reduce infections whilst continuing to offer a full curriculum in accordance with the DFE guidance.
- The experts present discussed our current COVID Risk Assessment and the mitigations we currently have in place. It was felt our current measures fell well within the current guidance and the most effective way of reducing transmission at the stage was the reintroduction of face coverings across campus for a two week period. Over this period our other mitigations will be reviewed and adjustments made in accordance with the advice given.

Attached is a letter from PHE outlining what they feel is needed at this stage of the pandemic to keep the school safe, reduce infections and maintain a strong educational provision.

I am acutely aware that there will be mixed views to this guidance given the wider guidance within society but hope you understand the rationale behind this reintroduction of face coverings. I would urge all parents and carers to support this new measure over this two week period and talk to their children about the importance of working together as a community at this stage.

Clearly as before there are exceptions to this rule as highlighted in the PHE letter.

We will continue to do all we can to navigate these challenging times and protect your child's safety and education.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Teece', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

W Teece
Headteacher