

Date: 17th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing this letter to you in response to the number of COVID-19 cases in Shevington High School at present, and which we are supporting the school in managing.

I know Mr. Grant has been regularly communicating with parents throughout this emerging situation, and I know we are both extremely grateful for the support that he has received to date from the parents and pupils at Shevington High. Thank you.

I wanted to send this letter to explain to you the support that the school is receiving from Wigan Public Health and to reassure you as to the safety measures that are already in place and the response that is being made as a result to these cases.

As Mr Grant has informed you, there are a number of cases in the school at the moment. As outlined in the letter Cath Peeling and I sent out to parents on 2nd September 2021, the existing prevalence of COVID-19 in Wigan, as it is across the country at the moment, is very high. Therefore, it is not unanticipated that we are seeing COVID-19 cases in schools at present.

Every school in Wigan has been advised of a range of COVID-19 safety measures that they should have in place at all times, and many of them, including Shevington High, are actually retaining safety measures that are further than the Government is requiring them to have in place. Every school should have a contingency plan which details what they will do if there are cases in a school, which will include a threshold at which they will seek Public Health advice.

Our Health Protection and Civil Contingencies Team are therefore working extremely closely with Mr Grant and the rest of the school's leadership team to ensure that there are strong measures in place, and that the pupils, staff and parents connected with Shevington High are kept as safe as possible. Health Protection specialists have had two meetings with the school to date and are satisfied there are really strong safety measures in place. However, due to the nature and degree to which there has been a spread of cases in the school, they have provided the school with recommendations for further actions that can be taken to try and reduce any further spread of cases in the school. This approach is absolutely in line with standard outbreak management measures.

Mr Grant will advise you of what additional measures the school is taking in response to this advice. These measures may change as our advice during outbreak management is continually reviewed and adapted to any changes. I would therefore ask everyone connected to the school to follow the advice given by the school as it is important we all work together to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our schools.

Yours sincerely,



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Director of Public Health

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