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Wednesday 13 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope and trust that you and your family remain well. We are writing further to our [letter of 1 October](#) to update you with information about the COVID-19 cases in school. Sharing this information with you is an important part of our efforts to help mitigate the risk of coronavirus transmission within our community, and to ensure that your children continue to attend school safely. We want to ensure that you are informed, are aware of appropriate advice on how to continue to support your child, and are reassured that the safety of our students and their families, and indeed our staff, remains paramount.

We must sincerely thank parents, carers, and guardians very much for their support and cooperation in implementing the additional measures we invoked on 1 October, and most particularly with respect to our resumption of contact tracing. Whilst this goes beyond the guidance schools are expected to follow, there is no doubt that it is having a clear impact. Several asymptomatic students have tested positive for COVID-19 as a result, and are consequently isolating, which is thus helping us reduce transmission. This is also reflected in the increased number of cases:

In the last ten days, we have been made aware of 86 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the College, amongst students and staff. As of writing, a further 37 students and staff are awaiting the results of PCR tests after testing positive through their asymptomatic LFD tests. We offer the staff, students and families affected our warmest wishes and unequivocal support.

Students and staff who have tested positive or who have symptoms are isolating. We remain open, and providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend school.

We continue to be in close contact with the UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) to monitor the current situation and keep the measures we have in place under constant review. A meeting was held this morning with representatives from UKSHA, NHS and Devon County Council, to review the current situation and undertake a further risk assessment. As a result, we are continuing to implement the outbreak control measures outlined in sections 1.3 (pages 3-4) and 4.3 (pages 6-7) of our [COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan](#), the key measures from which we reiterate for you overleaf, alongside a set of **important additional measures** that the UKSHA have recommended we invoke. These recommendations will be kept under review by the UKSHA, in liaison with us. We respectfully ask again for your support in ensuring that these measures are implemented with vigilance and care.

Key actions

- **All students and staff must wear face coverings in communal areas, unless exempt.**
- **All students must adhere to the one-way system of movement within corridors.**
- **If travel to College is by coach or taxi, students should clean hands before boarding, wear face coverings, and should sit next to other students in their year, or siblings.**
- **Meetings will be undertaken remotely or in well-ventilated spaces with assured social distancing.**
- **All students and staff to take LFD tests at home at least three times a week.**
 - ⇒ We recommend that tests are taken on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings.
 - ⇒ Please report results, whether positive or negative, to us via [this form](#).
 - ⇒ If the LFD test is positive, the person should isolate and a PCR test should be [arranged](#) and taken within two days.
 - If the PCR test is positive, or if a PCR test is not taken within two days of the LFD test, the person must isolate for ten days (day 1 being the day after the positive LFD test). If the PCR test is taken within 2 days and is negative, the person can return to school.
- **If a student or adult in the school believes they are a contact of someone who has tested positive, they should arrange and take a PCR test.** (See the notes below.)
- **If a student tests positive via a PCR test, we will inform possible contacts to advise them that they should arrange and take a PCR test.** (See the notes below.)
 - ⇒ Parent/carers [complete this form](#) to confirm that their child has tested positive via a PCR test and to identify any person with whom their child may have mixed closely.
 - ⇒ We will then contact (by email) the families of any student identified through this form as a possible contact and advise them accordingly.
- **Any student or adult in the school who is a contact of someone who has tested positive and has taken a PCR test that returns a negative result, should take a LFD test daily for 7 days.** (See the notes below.)
 - ⇒ This includes any student or adult in the school believes they are a contact of someone who has tested positive, or any student or adult whom we have contacted to advise that they are a possible contact.
- **Indoor occupied spaces will be kept well ventilated, and we will install CO₂ monitors in classrooms to identify if ventilation needs to be improved.**

- **Notes**

A student who believes they are a contact of a positive case, or who has been identified by the school or NHS Test & Trace as a possible contact of a positive case, can still attend school while they await the results of their PCR test.

Anyone who has already tested positive for COVID-19 should not undertake any test within 90 days of their positive test, unless they exhibit any new coronavirus symptoms.

Thank you very much, again, for your ongoing support. We appreciate that you may find the current situation concerning, but we hope that we have been able to reassure you that we are doing everything we can and more to mitigate the spread of this sickening virus. We will continue to work alongside public health experts from the UKHSA and South West Health Protection Team to ensure that the measures and actions we are taking are appropriate, and proportionate, whilst minimising as best we can any disruption to our students' learning. For your information, we have also expressed our desire to the relevant departments and agencies for the COVID-19 vaccination dates for our 12- to 15-year-olds to be confirmed as soon as possible, and will of course let you know as soon as we receive this confirmation.

Please do remember to report LFD test results to us via [this form](#), and inform us of details regarding any PCR positive case via [this form](#). And of course, please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any concerns and/or require any further information, clarification, advice, or support. We would also be very grateful if any such concerns or questions are not raised through social media: whilst we monitor social media content where we can, we do not use such as an avenue of direct communication with families.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Craig Griffiths and Rebecca Mullins. The signature of Craig Griffiths is on the left, and the signature of Rebecca Mullins is on the right.

Craig Griffiths and Rebecca Mullins
(Associate Principals).