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Thursday 21 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 13 October](#), in a spirit of openness and community, to update you about the COVID-19 cases in school and to provide you with information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme for young people aged 12 to 15.

COVID-19 cases

As of writing we have 118 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the College, amongst students and staff. A further 22 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. All students and staff who have tested positive or who have symptoms are isolating, and we remain open. Providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend school.

It is important to note that whilst there has been an increase in the number of confirmed positive cases (i.e., PCR test confirmed) since our last letter, there are fewer students and staff who are symptomatic or who have tested positive through LFD asymptomatic testing, which is a cause for optimism. Our resumption of contact tracing is clearly having a positive impact in mitigating transmission, and we are beginning to see reduced numbers of students with symptoms or testing positive through LFD tests. Alongside the vigilant implementation from all of us of the other measures we have invoked — as outlined in our [last letter](#) and which I repeat at the end of this letter for your convenience — we are hopeful that the situation will continue to improve upon our return to school after the half term break on 1 November. Indeed, this should be further reinforced by the vaccination of our 12- to 15-year-old students.

COVID-19 vaccines

We have today received confirmation from the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) that the COVID-19 vaccinations for our 12- to 15-year-old students will be provided on-site at the College on 2 November 2021. We will shortly forward an email from the SAIS team to you regarding the vaccination programme and consent for your child to participate in such. To reiterate the information we provided in our [letter of 22 September](#), we want to reassure you that as a school we will not make any decisions about your child's vaccination. Moreover, the SAIS team have confirmed with us in writing, and verbally, that no student will be given the vaccine on College premises without the consent of parents or guardians. They have also confirmed, and asked us to share with you, that they will not be operating 'Gillick competence'. SAIS have stated, categorically, that they 'will not be vaccinating children without a positive consent form being completed by a parent/guardian'. And if there are discrepancies between a child and parental view, SAIS have also confirmed that they 'will call parents away from the [in school] vaccination session and arrange for vaccination to be caught up *if required*' at a vaccination centre on a different date.

Thank you very much, again, for your ongoing support. We would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our students, the overwhelming majority of whom continue to conduct themselves responsibly and safely in consideration of others, and our staff, who have yet again stepped up in very difficult circumstances to protect the learning and assure the safety of our students. Please let us reassure you that we remain vigilant and continue to monitor the situation very closely every day. Moreover, we will continue to work alongside public health experts from the UK Health Security Agency and the 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.

Please do remember to continue to report LFD test results to us via [this form](#), and inform us of details regarding any PCR positive case via [this form](#). We will continue to provide contact tracing over the half term break to continue the improvements we are seeing. We have given all students more home test kits this week to continue testing over the half term break, but please check that you have enough (if you still require more home testing kits, you can also order more [online](#) or collect from your local pharmacy).

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.

Yours sincerely,

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

Craig Griffiths and Rebecca Mullins
(Associate Principals).

Key Actions to mitigate against virus transmission

- 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, including over the half term break.**
 - ⇒ We recommend that tests are taken on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings.
 - ⇒ **One test should be taken on the evening of Sunday 31 October.**
 - ⇒ 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.