



29 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Unfortunately, since writing to you yesterday, our positive COVID cases confirmed by PCR testing have increased. Therefore, after consultation with Public Health England, it has been deemed that we are in the 'amber' category as a school.

This means that from tomorrow, the following measures will be implemented at The Castle School:

- Students and staff are required to complete lateral flow tests **daily**, logging results with school and also on the NHS website. We will distribute more test kits tomorrow morning in tutor time for those families who need them and will have more coming into school on order.
- Students and staff will be required to wear a face covering when in school, inside the building. This will also be the case during lessons. Please ensure your child has a mask with them when they come to school tomorrow; we do have some that we can give out if needed. Students can get a mask from the Pastoral Hub, using the external door before entering the buildings.
- Students should not arrive at school before 8:40am, so that mixing before school is limited. On arrival at school, students should go to their tutor bases straight away and not gather with friends.
- Students will have different queue times for the canteen, to reduce year group mixing. Each year group will have a set space where they will eat food. Please can I encourage families to send students in with packed lunches where feasible, to reduce the need to queue for food.
- All enrichment activities must be available for single year groups – therefore, any enrichment that allows mixing of year groups will not take place. A new enrichment programme will be communicated to you as soon as we have a plan in place.
- All trips and visits off site have been cancelled. Therefore:
 - o no sporting fixtures can take place.
 - o The Curriculum Enrichment Days planned for Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 October will be cancelled and school will run the standard school day, with students completing lessons as normal.
 - o The planned Pinkery trips for Windsor (7B) and Balmoral (7G) can no longer go ahead.

As we have been advised that all trips need to be cancelled, we will ensure that refunds for trips are processed as soon as we are able to.

Students will have time with their tutor in the morning to go through specific details of what has changed in terms of the school systems and expectations.

Work will be available on Microsoft Teams for all students who are absent from school and isolating due to COVID, but who are well enough to work.

You may have further questions about school events planned to take place next month, which currently we are unable to answer. I hope that you can appreciate that we are looking at the next week and a half presently, given that the situation can change rapidly.

If your child develops symptoms or has been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid, they should get a PCR test. Please see the information at the end of this letter.

Thank you so much for your support and understanding at this time. I shall endeavour to keep you up to date over the next few days.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Lamb
Headteacher

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

However mild the symptoms, please book a PCR test for the person with symptoms (even if they have already taken an LFD test). Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

You can book a test here [Testing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) or by calling 119.

If the test result is negative, your child can return to school once they are well and have been fever free for at least 24 hours (without the support of paracetamol or Calpol).

If the test result is positive, your child must self-isolate for 10 days (from when symptoms started, or from the date of the test). Members of your household who have been fully vaccinated (at least 14 days earlier) are medically exempt from vaccination or under the age of 18 years 6 months, instead of self-isolating, are now advised to take a free PCR test. They should continue to take precautions to protect others until the result is received. If the result is negative, they can resume normal activities. If the result is positive they must isolate for 10 days. This starts either from the test date, or onset of symptoms, whichever came first.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111. **For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

