

2 February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I thought it would be useful to outline the current COVID situation at The Castle School. We, along with many other schools in the area, are experiencing an increase of COVID-19 cases, with 10% of students currently absent due to isolation. The school will continue with measures to try to reduce the risk of transmission.

NEW INFORMATION - Face Coverings

From **Wednesday 2 February 2022** we will be asking staff and students to wear face coverings in communal areas. We will **not** be asking students to wear face coverings in classrooms, but, of course, they can if they wish to do so.

Please remind your child to regularly wash/sanitise their hands and to maintain social distance where feasible.

Twice weekly testing

Using the lateral flow tests provided by the school, all children should test twice a week prior to coming into school, ideally on a Monday and Thursday. Their tutor will provide further test kits, when needed.

Please report all results as it is useful for us to get a clear picture of how many students are testing weekly and can therefore be sure of reducing asymptomatic cases:

Report to school: <https://www.classcharts.com> via parent login

Report to NHS: www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

If your child is asymptomatic and receives a positive lateral flow test (LFT) result, they must isolate for at least 6 days, see below for self-isolation rules. There is no requirement to obtain a confirmatory PCR test.

If your child is displaying any COVID symptoms, even if they have a negative LFT result, please arrange a PCR test for them. They must isolate until the result is known but results have been coming back quickly.

Isolation Period if Positive LFT or PCR:

Isolate for at least 6 days. If at day 5 and day 6 (at least 24 hours between each test) the student obtains both negative LFT results and does not have a temperature, they can come out of

isolation. Students should limit close contact in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces. If the LFT results are still positive, students should continue to take daily tests until 2 negative results are received.

If 2 negative results are not obtained during the 10-day period, students can come out of isolation after 10 full days from first day of symptoms or the positive result, even though some COVID symptoms may remain ie, cough, loss of taste and/or smell.

Close Contacts

Students will not need to isolate if they are told they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive, but we strongly advise them to take daily LFTs for 7 days.

Cleaning and Ventilation

The school has enhanced cleaning measures within the school and windows will be left open to increase the ventilation in the classrooms and communal areas.

Hopefully with these measures in place, we will start to see a reduction in cases.

Thank you as always for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr Lamb', written in a cursive style.

Mr Lamb
Headteacher

