



# The Hub School

Chair of Governors: Mr M Green

Headteacher: Mr P Grimes

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14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Important: Proposed changes to the COVID-19 Risk Assessment**

I am writing to you to communicate some important changes with relation to our COVID-19 risk assessment and our on-going practices and expectations. This relates to any staff or students whose place of work or education is at The Hub School site. For staff or students who work at alternative education provisions, you should continue to follow the agreed risk assessment and guidance provided by them.

Following the government's announcement to follow the intention of entering 'step 4' of the current roadmap, it is important to highlight and understand what that means for our students and staff, both now and into the Autumn term 21-22. It is worth noting that every educational setting is different and our plans are specific to our context.

### **Step 4 Arrangements (From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July)**

#### **Face Coverings in school**

Since the previous change in guidance, students have not been required to wear masks within the school building. This will continue to be the case and for our students - mask remain optional. From **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July** we are extending this message to our staff. The wearing of masks for staff and adult visitors will become optional within the school building. Staff will still be advised to wear masks in certain contexts where it is difficult to remain socially distanced for an extended period of time.

#### **Face Coverings on transport**

Our transport department are still waiting for national guidance on the wearing of face coverings on transport. We will be asking transport staff to enforce the wearing of masks on transport (unless exempt) up until the end of the school term. If further guidance changes, we will communicate this to you as soon as possible. We appreciate the continued support with this and the majority of our students have been very compliant. We ask that this continues for a short while longer.

#### **Hygiene and Ventilation**

In order to reduce the risk of potential transmission, we will continue our systems of control around promoting good hygiene and working in ventilated areas wherever possible. These practices will continue for the foreseeable future.

### **Return in the Autumn Term**

**8<sup>th</sup> September – Year 7-9**

**9<sup>th</sup> September – Y10 & 11**

## Contact Tracing

From step 4, the school are not expected to assist with contact tracing for staff or students who may have been identified as direct contacts after a confirmed positive case. Direct contacts will be contacted by NHS track and trace. **From 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021**, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS track and trace as a direct contact of a positive case. Instead, children will be advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if asked to do so.

## Symptomatic and Positive Cases

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms, has a positive test result or are required to stay at home for any other reason (for example quarantine), they should not come into school. If students develop COVID-19 symptoms whilst in school, however mild, they will be sent home at the earliest opportunity and asked to follow public health advice.

## Asymptomatic Testing

Our intention is to provide all staff and students, who have given consent, with enough testing kits to continue a twice-weekly lateral flow test regime over the summer holidays. This twice-weekly testing will continue up until the end of September, when it will be reviewed nationally. Once again, we thank our parents/carers for their support in this important testing. If a student tests positive on the lateral flow device, they should take a PCR test immediately.

When students return in September we will be conducting a mass testing schedule similar to the one conducted when students returned from lockdown in the Easter term. This will involve testing all staff and students twice, 3-5 days apart. We will only test students where consent has been given, so if you wish to change your decision on consent, please inform the school as soon as possible. This is an important process to ensure returning staff and students are not carrying the virus into school unknowingly.

## Return to school date

Due to this process, we have made the decision to stagger our return date for students. Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) will return to school on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) will return the following day on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September. This is to enable the school to perform mass testing in a safe and manageable way.

All the plans above are subject to national change and we continue to receive daily updates and guidance from both a national and local perspective. We also operate a 'Outbreak Management Plan' whereby if we have an outbreak of COVID-19 cases within the school community, we may revert back to enforcing a number of restrictions and systems that we have previously used.

I realise such a time of uncertainty will be worrying and confusing for everyone within our school community. I hope we can work together to reassure and support our students, to get them through this challenging period and hopefully return to a sustained period of education in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Grimes

Headteacher