

28th February 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely half term break. I am writing following the Prime Minister's announcement on the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response 'Living with COVID-19'. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains.

Whilst **there is no longer a legal requirement** to self-isolate following a positive test, the public health advice remains the same and anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result should stay at home and avoid contact with other people to avoid spreading the virus to others.

Guidance remains that at the onset of **any one** of key symptoms you should book a PCR test. The guidance document ([COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts)) states that children who have symptoms of COVID-19 are more likely to pass the virus onto others than those who do not and therefore **this guidance states that children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious**. Full details are available from the government document directly (see link above).

The key symptoms of Covid-19 continue to be recognised as:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

The document also explains that people who have Covid-19 should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these test results are negative, they should return to their educational setting, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

In line with this guidance we advise that students and staff with key symptoms or a positive test result remain at home whilst infectious. We think that parents and carers would agree that people with symptoms or a positive test should not attend the school whilst infectious, given the potential risk to others.

Close contacts

Close contacts of confirmed cases are no longer advised to take daily lateral flow tests or to self-isolate, but you should take steps to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. [Read more about what to do if you are a close contact.](#)

Testing

The Government no longer recommends twice-weekly asymptomatic testing in mainstream education and childcare settings, **however, our preference is for staff and students to continue to test twice weekly to mitigate infection** and to that effect we will continue to supply free home testing kits until 31st March 2022.

Should any parent or carer insist on a student attending school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19, we can and will take the decision if, in our reasonable judgement, it is

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necessary to protect other students and staff from possible infection with Covid-19, to send the student home.

Thank you for your support in keeping the Academy a safe place whilst we continue to live with Covid-19.




Yours sincerely,

Mr M Avoth
Principal

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