



6th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your families are well and remaining safe during these difficult times.

In my last letter to I stated that *'from Monday 17th May students no longer need to wear facemasks at school, following national advice from the DFE. However, Public Health England (PHE) at any time can require schools to bring back facemask wearing should the need arise. Individual headteachers can also make this decision based on the specific circumstances in any individual school in liaison with the Local Authority and PHE.'*

I am sorry to say that in discussion with Slough Local Authority and PHE from Monday 7th June I am reintroducing the compulsory wearing of face masks/coverings inside buildings for the foreseeable for all students and staff unless they are exempt. Large numbers of students continued to wear face masks which was very good, however further action must be taken and the decision to reintroduce this is for the following reasons:

- Between 8th March and 28th May only three students tested positive for Covid via the lateral flow tests conducted on the school site in early March. No other cases have occurred until this Bank Holiday Weekend when five students, all in Year 9, tested positive for Covid, confirmed by PCR tests. This is a significant increase in a very short space of time.
- More than one secondary school in Slough before half term were the subject of surge testing by PHE for their number of cases and the prevalence of the Delta variant.
- The rapid increase in Slough's Covid rate.
- The emergence of the Delta variant which is more transmissible and those adults that have only had one dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca being far less protected than with other vaccines and the continuing number of adults that are still waiting for their first vaccine.

No other aspects of our risk assessment will change. Students must follow all our restrictions in order to keep the transmission of Covid as low as possible.

Home Covid Testing

Please can I remind you that if you have opted in to testing this must be completed. Indeed it is now even more important. If the lateral flow test shows positive your child must isolate immediately whilst waiting for a PCR test confirmation. YOU MUST report the results of lateral flow tests. You should report your results online straight away, even if your result is negative or void. It's easy to do at: gov.uk/report-covid19-result. Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. If you have tested positive, you can also check to see if you are eligible for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment. **Please ensure you test your child before they return to school tomorrow.**

Please can I also remind all parents of the following:

- Any student showing signs of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) **MUST** be kept at home. High temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste or sense of smell.
- Any student or adult who lives or has had contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 **MUST** isolate at home alongside the rest of the family.



- Any student or adult who lives or has had contact with someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 **MUST** isolate until tests have been taken. Should they be negative students return to school. Should they be positive students **MUST** isolate.

The above is not specific to our school but are the rules **everyone** has to follow by law. This is becoming even more important as restrictions relax as we do not want to have another lockdown.

On the new sections of our website I have added a leaflet explaining testing, this is also in our main community languages.

I appreciate that these are concerning times for all us. I would like to reassure parents, carers and students that much consideration has gone into our systems and processes. Full risk assessments are available on our website. My aim is for the school to feel as normal as possible but with increased safety measures so that everyone on site has a positive and safe experience.

I also want to thank you for all your support and I wish you all the very best during the difficult times ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher