

20th October 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing as we have been made aware of several members of our school community who have tested positive for COVID-19. I appreciate that families may find this concerning and we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice. Please be reassured that, for most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

School remains open and your child should continue to attend school if they remain well. The small number of children who have been identified as contacts of the confirmed cases will have guidance from NHS Test and Trace and will be advised to take a PCR test. Should parents/guardians think your child is a close contact of a confirmed case but you have not been contacted by NHS Test and Trace, please click [here](#).

School procedures update

From tomorrow, Thursday 21st October 2021, all staff and students will be required to wear masks at all times during the school day when social distancing cannot be maintained, unless students and staff are outside or eating/drinking. Should your child be exempt from wearing a mask, please email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk for the attention of your child's Head of Year. Students should wear plain masks and no other type of face covering. The school has a plentiful supply of masks so please do not worry if your child does not have a mask ready for tomorrow; masks will be available to collect on arrival at school.

Staff will also be reminding students of the importance of hygiene measures, particularly of washing or sanitising hands regularly. Hand sanitiser is available on arrival at school, in all classrooms and at locations around the school building.

Also from tomorrow, visitors will not be allowed on site and parental meetings will take place remotely. Should you have a planned meeting with a member of staff, the member of staff will be in touch to organise this. I am also suspending any situations where large numbers of students congregate inside, such as year-group assemblies. This includes the talk for Sixth Form students scheduled to take place on Thursday 21st October 2021 during Period 5.

These measures will continue after half term and will be reviewed weekly. I will continue to update families should the situation change.

I would also like to remind families of the importance of continuing with twice-weekly asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device testing; students can collect Lateral Flow Tests from their tutor.

Information from NHS

The symptoms of COVID-19 are: a new, continuous cough; a high temperature; a loss of/change in normal sense of taste or smell (click [here](#) for more information from the NHS). Should your child develop symptoms of COVID-19, they must self-isolate immediately and undertake a PCR test (click [here](#) to book a PCR test, or call 119). Should the result be positive, the student should isolate until at least ten days after the appearance of symptoms or the date of the positive test. Should the result be negative, the self-isolation can end.

For those in the same household as someone who is symptomatic and awaiting a PCR result, or someone who has tested positive, there is no requirement to self-isolate if you are fully vaccinated; below the age of 18 years, 6 months; have taken part in, or are currently part of, an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial; are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

There are things we can all do to help to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. These include: getting vaccinated; washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser regularly; using a tissue or sleeve (not hands) for coughs and sneezes; placing tissues in the bin; meeting people outside; avoiding crowded areas; opening doors and windows to let fresh air in; wearing a face covering.

I trust parents/guardians appreciate that the rising case numbers in our community means that I must act on the advice from PHE in order to do all that I can to keep our school community safe. Should parents/guardians have any questions, please contact office@ruisliphigh.org.uk for the attention of your child's Head of Year.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher