



29th September 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

I would like to talk to you about how we are managing Covid and the position we must take regarding confidentiality.

Three year groups in the Senior School are completing 10 days of lateral flow tests because one or more of their peers has received a positive result from a LFT, which I am advised by Public Health usually results in a positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. The process of communication between Public Health and I started last Wednesday following changes that were made to official guidance on Tuesday. Parents of students in the Lower Fifth will be aware that this latest communication was on Sunday, and we have acted upon official guidance at the earliest opportunity. We will continue to update parents and students **on the day** we receive information.

So far this week no new cases have been identified that have fallen within the scope of education for further action by us, but you will appreciate that this may change at any time, and if it does, we will contact you on the same day we are notified.

I am aware that parents and students are choosing to share their personal Covid status with each other, which they are perfectly at liberty to do. Please understand that it is outside of acceptable practice for us as a school to share any personal (health) information or details more broadly. The only information we will share within college, is that which is essential in helping our teaching colleagues to support each student; namely, that they are unwell and a) not able to work, or b) well enough to receive core work. Students who are not in college are able to access virtual assemblies via Microsoft Teams, and tutors and subject teachers are striving to maintain contact within the restrictions of the working day, usually providing core work within 24 hours.

Within College, we continue to encourage good practice to stop the spread of the virus, whilst also aiming to maintain business as usual. We will continue to consider running larger events online to minimise unnecessary contact, and to make these events accessible for those who are prevented from attending in person. Smaller, informal events are easier to manage on site and we will aim to run these as normal whenever possible. We are acutely aware that nothing can fully replace meeting face to face.

We value our relationship with our students and parents and will always seek to address and resolve any issues. It would be helpful if the following practices could be maintained:

- Continue to follow requests to do LFTs. (College and Beau Sejour have additional testing kits).
- Please let us know about positive LFTs and, when doing this, the time of the last negative LFT.
- Core work will be provided [on Teams] within 24 hours and this should continue throughout the absence.

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- In the event of a positive PCR test, it is helpful if you can notify us of the date of return to College (Public Health will provide this for you.) At this stage, I understand there is no requirement for any further testing before returning to college.
- If your daughter is not unwell or has not had a positive LFT, please send them into school as usual. There is no doubt that learning works better face to face and in school. My colleagues are working hard to provide core work, stay in contact with students who are away from school, and complete their usual duties.

Please do explore any ongoing concerns you may have. I hope that this update might give you some assurance and confidence that Public Health have provided us with sound guidance about the actions which we are taking, as we adapt and continue to live with Covid 19.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Ashley Clancy
Principal