

Oakbank School



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the new half term, I hope you are all well and enjoyed time with your children during the holiday.

We begin this term with the news of the second lock down beginning on Thursday 5th November. As you know this does not affect schools and we will be open as usual, however we have reviewed our Covid 19 safety policy with the following amendment:

From Thursday 5th November all students will be expected to wear masks in school except when they are in lessons or out of doors.

When masks are not being worn they should be placed in a sealable bag and the placed in the student's school bag.

Not wearing a mask is equivalent to any uniform infringement and will be dealt with in the same way.

All staff and visitors are also expected to wear masks in school.

This measure is intended to reduce the risk of contracting Covid 19, and with teenage years increasing the level of infection it is important we do all we can to keep each other safe.

The remainder of this letter is a reminder of our contingency plans should the school be adversely affected by Covid and what to do if your child has Covid symptoms

School Contingencies

Level One – School Open

This is our current status

- School is open to all with a full timetable
- Covid control measures are in place to minimise transmission
- Absent staff (whether they are self-isolating or ill for other reasons) will have their lessons covered

Level Two – Rota system for year groups to limit contacts and break transmission

This will be triggered if there is a local or national lock down or if staff absence rises to such a level that we cannot cover all classes.

- Key worker and vulnerable students working in school in year bubbles

- The rota will be developed in relation to need, our priority will be to ensure Y11 are in school and other year groups then placed in the rota. We will inform you of the details of which year group when we have the information to share
- The rota will be cover two weeks – one week in school, the other week at home
 - When in school, lessons will be as usual and follow the regular timetable
 - When at home, lessons will be delivered via Teams and will reflect the school timetable
- Mock exams for Y11 will take place according to the calendar dates

Level Three – All in school, unless identified as needing to self-isolate by the DFE

- Key worker and vulnerable students working in school in year bubbles
- Unless informed by the school all students will be expected to attend school as usual
- Students who have been informed to self-isolate will receive work through Teams and this will reflect the school timetable
- Mock exams for Y11 will take place according to the calendar date

Level Four – Lockdown, school closed to students for lessons

- Key worker and vulnerable students working in school in year bubbles
- All other students at home with lessons delivered by Teams in line with the school timetable
- Mock exams for Y11 will take place according to the calendar date and take place in school if at all possible

What to do if a child has symptoms

If your daughter or son has symptoms, please let us know do not delay booking a test.

If your son or daughter has been required to take a test they will not be able to return to school until either:

- They have had a negative test result (we will need to see evidence of this)

Or

- They have quarantined for 14 days

If they receive a positive test result please contact us immediately on the attendance line

Symptoms of Covid 19

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.
3. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

We have tried to consider all eventualities in our planning but if you have further queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us

Robin Bertrand
Head Teacher