



Head Teacher Newsletter

Wednesday 5 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

A huge thank you to all students and parents for supporting the wearing of masks in school which we have witnessed in learning walks around the building today. Our exempt students will again receive a lanyard in the coming days to wear in school. Mask wearing has become essential for safety purposes, despite the discomfort staff and students may experience. However, we have a duty of care and if this supports the health service and our ability to stay open, then we must support the guidance. From over 400 students who tested yesterday, we had 8 positive cases who were all asymptomatic. Please continue to test your children at least twice a week to ensure they can safely attend school. We have also been informed of 64 positive cases of Covid from parental phone calls to our attendance team. We appreciate you contacting the school with this information, as we must review the Covid-19 situation daily and inform the Department for Education (DFE) of any new cases that emerge.

All staff are testing twice a week and following our return to work yesterday, we have 6 confirmed adult cases of Covid. We are following all DFE recommended actions to stop the spread of the disease. We will be reviewing our staffing levels daily and will contact everyone as soon as possible with any changes to our normal practice. As mentioned yesterday, the next government review of the programme is **Wednesday 26 January 2022** and I will let parents know of the outcome of this.

I attended a virtual meeting today with the local authority and the other 9 secondary schools within the borough, who are all following the same procedures as ourselves. South Tyneside cases have risen sharply over the Christmas period and the infection rate is now over 1,000 people / 100,000 which has increased from 278 / 100,000 before Christmas and the next few weeks are expected to bring many more positive cases. We will try to keep everything as normal as possible to ensure we stay open for face to face teaching.

Please continue to support the school as much as possible with these new measures which will hopefully end once case numbers fall. Thank you for your understanding at this time.

Ian Noble
Head Teacher