



6 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and revised Covid guidance

Welcome back to the new school term and Happy New Year to you all. We are very grateful for all the support from families over the sad passing of Mrs Katey Abbott that we announced earlier in the week. Again, if any student would like further support at this difficult time then they should approach the pastoral team or senior staff.

You will be aware that the infection rate of Covid, particularly the Omicron variant is very high at the moment which could have a significant impact on the attendance of both staff and students. Please be assured that we will do all we can to maintain face to face teaching in school as long as it remains safe to do so.

Face Coverings

It is now national guidance that students and staff are asked to wear appropriate face coverings in both classrooms and communal spaces. Thank you for your ongoing support with this and for ensuring that your child attends school equipped with their own face covering. It is recommended by Public Health that these are good quality, triple layered face coverings. Face coverings remain mandatory on public transport and the school bus. We also ask that students continue to sanitise their hands on entrance to and exit from each room in the school. If your child has a medical exemption from the use of a face covering please discuss this with the appropriate pastoral manager in the first instance.

Covid Testing

We are grateful for your ongoing support with twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing at home. We ask that these are routinely conducted on Wednesday and Sunday evenings and kits can be collected from the school reception. If your child tests positive on a LFD then they must start to isolate immediately and inform the school via the absence line. There is no longer a requirement for a confirmatory PCR test for a positive LFD test if there are no symptoms, however, the requirement to isolate remains the same.

Please also inform the school via the absence line if your child displays Covid symptoms then book a confirmatory PCR test.

Isolation Period

Students testing positive are required to isolate for 10 days. This can be shortened to 7 days only if they produced a negative LFD test on day 6 and day 7 after the date of their initial positive test. The LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 are required to be taken 24 hours apart. Public Health have confirmed that if the LFD test is taken in the morning of day 7 and is



negative then students can return to school on that day. In these circumstances, we would respectfully ask for photographic evidence of negative LFD tests for day 6 and 7. Please email this to enquiries@stocksbridgehigh.sheffield.sch.uk

Contact Tracing

Schools no longer have any responsibility for close contact tracing as this is now handled by NHS Test and Trace. In the event of a positive test result, please report your child's result on www.gov.uk and self-isolate immediately. After reporting a positive LFD test result, you will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that your child's close contacts can be traced. If your child is identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace, or if someone else in the household tests positive, students are requested to conduct daily LFD tests for seven consecutive days and if negative, and they do not display symptoms, they can still attend school.

Remote Learning

When you inform school of a positive test outcome, please would you also let us know whether or not your child is well enough to complete home learning whilst isolating. If this changes through the isolation period then, again, please let us know.

Student work will be set on Microsoft Teams and will be aligned to the curriculum being delivered in school. It may not be possible to set exactly the same tasks that are happening in lessons but it will cover the same learning outcomes. The work should enable students to re-join lessons following isolation without the need to catch up in school.

Also, as teachers will need to collate and upload appropriate resources, it may not be immediately available at the exact time of the timetabled lesson. But we will endeavour to ensure it is available no later than 4pm. There will also be the potential to join lessons live and interact with staff so we would ask that students are logged into Teams throughout the day so these opportunities are not missed.

If there are any further changes to national or local guidance then we will communicate them as soon as possible. In the meantime, thank you for all your support and partnership through the on-going pandemic.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Ireland
Headteacher