

January 2022

Dear All,

As we start a new year and new term, I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding in a time that is most certainly not yet back to 'normal'.

In the last couple of days, the government guidance has been updated and a number of changes have been advised.

As you will be aware, there is a requirement for schools to provide a lateral flow test site and test all students before they return to school. A timetable for this was sent out prior to the break and is on our website. Students should continue to test twice weekly, on a Wednesday and Sunday, to reduce the chance of infections within the school setting. Please report tests through the NHS website and to our setting using the QR code on the test box. Even if someone has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing in school and at home.

The following self-isolation guidance from the Department for Education was sent to schools on Sunday 2nd January:

'Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Health and social care workers, including those working in education settings, should follow guidance for their sector on taking LFD tests on day 8, 9 and 10. For more information, visit [COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings](#).

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

- Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.](#)

- 'Updated guidance on the use of face coverings in education settings

From today, Sunday 2 January, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings. We are updating our guidance to reflect this. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.'

We are doing our best to support all students and keep school a place where they can be as 'normal' as possible. We understand that this is a significant change to the regulations. If your child is exempt, we will provide them with a card/lanyard to show if they are asked to wear a face covering. This will ensure they are not challenged about the wearing of a face covering in school or lessons. I am sure that you will understand that due to the guidance, staff will be asked to remind students that they should wear a mask in school and we do not wish to put additional pressure on our students who are exempt.

Please ensure that your child/children have a face mask with them to attend school, and a spare if possible. Face masks should be worn for a maximum of 4 hours and then changed or discarded if they are disposable. Schools have a small contingency supply of masks but we are unable to provide all students with a face covering due to the significant costs that this would cause. Face masks should continue to be worn on public and school transport for the entire journey.

Behaviour routines are a big focus for us at Chase Terrace Academy as we start the spring term. We know how hard it has been for our children and their families to have so much disruption over the last 18 months, and we are keen to support. We have simple rules and non-negotiables at CTA and we have high expectations for our students to challenge them to be independent and well-rounded young people. Taking responsibility for actions and making sure the culture is focused on aiming high and being the best you can be, is crucial to our success. Please talk to your children about the importance of our rules in school and that we will be consistently applying our behaviour policy to ensure we are giving all of our children the best chance of success.

Rewards are also really important to us and the House System events have been a brilliant way for students to get involved in the life of the school. We have lots more planned to support and reward students in school when they do meet expectations or go above and beyond.

As the weather gets colder we are going to allow students to wear their coats in the building during break and lunch only to help them to move from their outside area to the dining hall more freely. Coats should not be worn in the building at any other time. Hoodies are not permitted and should not be worn in the building at any time. Students are able to wear school hoodies in PE lessons only. Students who arrive for school wearing a hoodie will be expected to leave them at the Year Office.

We have shared our expectations with students in assemblies before Christmas and talked to them about rewards for meeting them, and sanctions where they are not. We are keen to ensure that all of our children maximise learning time, arriving to class on time, and staying in class. All children have the opportunity to use the toilet facilities every hour in between lessons, and at break and lunchtime. If you feel your child needs a toilet pass please do get in touch so that this can be arranged for them.

Thank you again for your support over these difficult times. The challenges continue and we are committed to doing what we do best – tackling the difficult times together as a team. Please do get in touch with us should you need our support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Mason', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ms N Mason
Head of School