

24<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, the Government, via the Department for Education has issued new COVID-19 guidance for schools relating to our return next week, the details of which are as follows:

- **Asymptomatic testing:** All secondary school students will receive two on-site lateral flow device tests, 3-5 days apart. The first of these will take place on the day they return to school. Students should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. It is important that all test results are recorded on the NHS website, as this assists with creating accurate data on the current trends of the virus. Below is a link to an updated consent form for those parents that did not provide consent in January and for those students who are joining us in September. Please can you complete this by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August . Testing is voluntary and therefore you can withdraw consent at any time so please notify the academy as appropriate. The privacy notice can be found on our website [Ormiston Academies Trust Documents and policies - Ormiston Academies Trust](#)

Link to Consent Form: <https://forms.gle/8N9Kr6peJE4vQhEcA>

- **Self-isolation for children and young people:** From Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August, children under the age of 18 years old are no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, they will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result, obtained through either a PCR or Lateral Flow Test. As previously, we would request that students do not attend school should they be showing symptoms of COVID-19. We can also confirm that self-isolating students will still have access to robust and comprehensive remote learning opportunities while self-isolating. The school will no longer be responsible for identifying close contacts, this will be carried out solely via NHS Test and Trace.
- **Face coverings:** Face coverings are no longer required whilst at school, although students can continue to wear these if it makes them feel more comfortable. It is, however, recommended that face coverings are worn whilst travelling to and from school by either, dedicated school or public transport.
- **Bubble system:** Students will no longer be restricted to a single bubble for their year group. Lessons will be delivered within departmental areas and students will move freely around the school to attend their lessons.

We have outbreak management plans in place, as required by the Government, to ensure we are prepared to continue to operate if there is transmission of the virus in our school or the local community. This will mean measures may need to be temporarily reinstated in the future, and we must stress that the safety measures in place will be continually reviewed and assessed in accordance with Government and local guidance.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our pupils and staff is our top priority. As such, we continue to encourage good hygiene including regular hand-washing and use of hand sanitiser, which is available throughout the building. We will continue to work closely together as a community school to ensure the best outcomes for students, staff and our wider community.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Jo Williams  
Principal