



The TRUE Learning Partnership



# Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Wednesday, 12 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you following the government announcement on Monday. Our students have returned to school really positively and I want to thank them again for their cooperation and for the fact that they have supported each other to stay safe in school. The various safety measures in school have certainly played an important part in ensuring that students can continue with face to face learning so successfully. As we move into the next phase we are taking the approach below to ensure the continued safety of students and staff.

### **Students and staff will continue to look out for each other by wearing face coverings in communal areas**

Although students are grouped in year bubbles there is some movement around the school to enable students to do computing, science practicals, PE, Art etc. I made the decision that it was important that students have access to as many of their normal practical subjects as possible and inevitably this means they have to move around school. To support this, we would expect that students continue to wear face coverings in corridors. They can remove the face covering and place in a plastic bag when they arrive at a lesson.

### **Face coverings are to be worn on buses**

We also expect that students continue to protect others by wearing face coverings on buses unless they are exempt. Additionally, students should keep windows open if possible and sanitise hands when travelling on buses.

### **Face coverings will no longer be recommended in classrooms**

Any student or member of staff will be able to wear a face covering should they wish to but we will no longer recommend that face coverings are worn in classrooms. Clearly, we will follow public health advice and are prepared to reintroduce face coverings should that be required in the future. We all hope, however, that the NHS vaccination programme and other measures mean that this will not be needed.

### **Other mitigations will remain in place**

Students should continue to wash and sanitise hands regularly and where possible should maintain distance from others. Windows in classrooms will remain open as ventilation is really important. We will also continue with staggered lunch and breaks so that students in different year groups are not mixing together in school.

Yew Tree Lane, Poynton,  
Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1PU

Tel: 01625 871811 Fax: 01625 874541  
Email: info@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk



**Students should continue with the twice weekly home testing programme**

The asymptomatic home testing programme continues to be important and students should continue to test on Sunday and Wednesday night and report the result to school and to NHS Test and Trace. If there are any positive results on a lateral flow device please email as soon as possible to [covidsupport@phs.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:covidsupport@phs.cheshire.sch.uk).

If we do receive positive lateral flow tests we can now offer parents the option of consenting to daily contact testing which will allow students to remain in school.

**Home Tests are also available for households**

The option of regular home testing for other members of your household is also recommended. If you wish to do this you can order lateral flow tests at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Our students have supported each other by following the guidance and I am confident that they will continue to demonstrate the same positive approach in the weeks to come.

Yours sincerely,

*Matthew Dean*

Matthew Dean  
Headteacher

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Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1PU

Tel: 01625 871811 Fax: 01625 874541  
Email: [info@phs.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@phs.cheshire.sch.uk)