



Poynton High School

and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Wednesday, 30 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Update on COVID-19

I am updating you as the number of COVID cases has risen in schools across the country and Cheshire East is an area that has been particularly badly hit.

We do not want to send students home, as we know that school is the best place for them in terms of their education, but we have to follow the public health guidance in order to minimise the spread of the virus.

Like me, many of you will be frustrated at the current situation but I wanted to emphasise the following points to enable you to have a full understanding.

- We are following national and Cheshire East public health guidelines and cannot make exceptions to these guidelines for close contacts. The safety of students and the wider community is paramount.
- We have not taken the approach of routinely sending half year groups home as is reported from some schools nationally. Instead we are working carefully to identify close contacts to reduce the numbers isolating.
- Some students identified as a close contact have asked us whether a negative lateral flow or PCR test result for them means they can return. Unfortunately this does not remove the need for isolation at the moment for anyone identified as a close contact.
- We were part of a national trial for daily contact testing but this national trial has now finished. It may lead to changes in the future but is not an option for any schools yet.

Thank you for informing us as soon as your child has a positive lateral flow or PCR test result. As soon as we receive this information we work to identify the close contacts and we will inform you as quickly as we can. We will also inform you quickly if the original student who tested positive on a lateral flow device has a negative PCR test. At that point the related close contacts can return.

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Work for students self-isolating

Work will be set in every lesson either through live streaming all or part of the lesson or through work on Google Classroom. Students should continue to read at the start of the lesson as they would do in school and also have the option of using CENTURY to support learning in maths, science and English <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/century>.

Face coverings

Students have worked really well with us on this in school and we will continue to wear them inside school, including in classrooms, for the remainder of this term. This additional mitigation will help to reduce the spread.

Lateral Flow Tests

The asymptomatic home testing programme continues to be important and students should test on Sunday and Wednesday night and report the result to school and to NHS Test and Trace <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. If there are any positive results on a lateral flow device, or a follow up PCR test, please email as soon as possible to covidsupport@phs.cheshire.sch.uk.

It is important to remember that although young people are unlikely to be very ill with COVID they can pass it on even if asymptomatic. The NHS vaccination campaign has been a huge success but no vaccination is ever 100% effective and so caution is still important. We will continue to do our best to keep students safe and able to make good progress with the curriculum.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Dean
Headteacher