

Thursday 11th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Update on Student Covid Cases

I am writing to update parents/carers on the number of students that have tested positive (PCR test) for Covid in the last week. There has been a spike in infections, and I know that this will cause a rise in anxieties we can feel as a community.

As of today, the following positive cases exist across the Academy:

Year Group	Number of Cases
7	8
8	10
9	2
10	0
11	0

Having experienced only 1 case in the run up to the end of last term, I am hopeful that this spike is the likely result of students mixing over the half-term break.

We continue to follow local and national guidance and the following additional actions have been taken to further reduce the risk of infection transmission:

- Staff continue to wear masks in corridors and communal areas.
- Staff and students are strongly encouraged to continue twice-weekly testing using LFD kits on a Wednesday and Sunday.
- All fixtures, trips and visits are suspending until Friday 26th November.
- All Sports clubs and extra-curricular activities are suspended until Friday 26th November.
- All assemblies take place in tutor rooms over MS Teams.
- Social distancing (zoning) has been reintroduced to the canteen at lunch – Years 10 and 11 have an extra 10minutes for sole access from 1.20-1.30pm. All other year groups still access the canteen from 1.30-2.00pm but are directed to zoned seating areas so that the mixing of year groups is reduced as far as possible.

From Monday 15th, the following measure is also required:

- All students will be required to wear a face covering or exemption lanyard when in corridors and moving around the site.
- Students may wish to wear face-coverings in lessons, although there is no requirement to do so.

**Please ensure that your child arrives at Oak on Monday
with a suitable face-covering or exemption lanyard.**

Oak Academy

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As previously explained, face-coverings must be plain or a simple pattern in design. They can be any colour and ideally the reusable cloth style coverings as these are more environmentally friendly. If the face covering has any large logos, pictures or is considered inappropriate for school by the Senior Leadership Team, the face covering will have to be removed and we will provide a new surgical style mask as a temporary replacement.

Scarfs, Snoods, Buffs and Bandanas are not permitted to be worn as face coverings.

Alongside these additional measures, we expect families to be mindful of ways in which they can help minimise the spread of infection:

- students are asked to test regularly at home and take a confirmatory PCR if their LFD test proves positive.
- if a student is feeling at all unwell (but has tested negative) they should stay at home
- all members of the academy community remember the rules about basic hygiene and regular handwashing.
- Parents/carers should consider the advisability of weekend sleepovers/social gatherings which have in the past been a source of spread of infection.

We will continue to monitor the situation daily, seeking advice and guidance from Public Health Dorset and the BCP Schools' Team.

Although we are not in a position where we need to move any year group to remote learning, this does remain an option if numbers of positive cases continue to rise or we are not able to provide safe levels of staffing in school or continuity of learning.

For pupils who must stay at home (isolating) and are well enough to do work they should check MS Teams for any work set. Please remember though that staff are teaching their normal classes as well and work for a particular subject may not appear to coincide with a particular lesson.

We will always work with families to alleviate any concerns that they may have, but I must remind parents/carers that government guidance states that absence because the parent or child is anxious about catching Covid must be marked as unauthorised, unless there are specific medical grounds which have been authorised by the school.

As ever, should you have any concerns or the need for further information, the best way forward is to contact us. We are here to listen.

These additional measures will be in place until Friday 26th November and reviewed, pending any further changes.

I am hopeful that by this time our number of cases will have dropped dramatically and am asking for the support of parents/carers in taking steps where appropriate to also minimise the risk of infection transmission.

With thanks in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,



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