

14th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Families

Letter to all pupils in the Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form Phases

We are writing specifically to you today to firstly reiterate key information about our COVID-19 protocols and secondly to remind families about the secondary and sixth form phase LFD home testing kits.

The importance of pupils, staff, parents, families and the community following COVID-19 protocols

We would like to assure you that Waverley School continues to follow the national guidance to promote a COVID-secure environment. Nationally the number of cases of the COVID-19 variant known as Delta VOC-21APR-02 is increasing. This variant is much more infectious across all age groups and looks to be more likely to cause complications for anyone who contracts the disease. It is vitally important to follow all guidance on hygiene, social distancing and mask wearing.

At this stage of the pandemic; with greater relaxation of restrictions and a number of variants in circulation, there is increased risk of catching COVID-19 – especially as around 1 in 3 people with the virus do not have symptoms, and many people are still unvaccinated.

It is therefore important that the care taken in our school continues when pupils, staff, parents, carers and families are outside of school. We must all take individual responsibility to do everything we can to enjoy the extra freedoms we have, while remaining cautious and following the ‘Hands, Face Space and Fresh Air’ guidance when mixing with loved ones and socialising. We must all play our part in protecting our school, our families and our community.

Continuing to take the regular rapid Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests is essential, as is making sure you isolate and get tested if you have even mild symptoms of COVID-19. It is also important that if you test positive for COVID-19 after taking an LFD test, that you self-isolate and request a PCR test, which will confirm the case.

It is also important that people who are entitled take up the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are invited to do so – which can be arranged by calling 119 or booking online:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination>

Face Masks and Face Coverings

We continue to request that all adults (staff and visitors on site, including parents/carers during drop off and pick up times at the beginning and end of the school day) continue to wear masks or face coverings in our communal spaces.

We request that all year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 pupils wear masks or face coverings in our communal spaces.

Any child or adult who is exempt is requested to wear an exemption lanyard (available in school for pupils and staff, and readily available online to buy). We encourage the wearing of masks or face coverings in secondary and sixth form classrooms.

The primary phase pupils are exempt from mask or face cover wearing, but primary staff are requested to wear masks or face coverings in communal spaces.

We will continue to apply this guidance until the end of the term.

Secondary and Sixth Form Phase Home Testing Kits

For Secondary and Sixth Form pupils – boxes continue to be issued to all pupils in years 7,8, 9, 10 and 12.

The instructions and how to upload the results of the tests to the NHS Test and Trace Service are included in each box.

The reasons for the Government request for every Secondary and Sixth Form age pupil to participate in this testing are given below.

The testing is voluntary.

We strongly encourage your child to take part so we can help prevent the spread of coronavirus and can better protect everyone in school and the local community.

When we distribute the test kits, we will record your child's name, the serial number of the test kit, date of issue and expiry date on the kit. The Government has asked us to keep this inventory information for 12 months.

Each pupil is asked to self-test twice a week, ideally before they come into school in the morning. Allow about 5 minutes to conduct the test and 30 minutes for the results.

When the Government provides further instructions soon about the continuation or discontinuation of this measure, we will inform you.

As well as communicating the results to NHS Test and Trace, we ask you (as does the Government) to communicate the results to school via the Achievement Coordinator email below to inform us of the test results, whether they are positive, negative or void. Ideally, you will do this as soon as you get the test result.

When you email the result please clearly type in your email your child's

- Full name
- Year group
- Form
- Date of birth

This will enable us to accurately record the result. The result is for information purposes and will be added to the inventory. It will be kept for 12 months.

Please email your results to the email below depending on which year group your child is in:

- Year 7 – ACO7@waverley.bham.sch.uk
- Year 8 – ACO8@waverley.bham.sch.uk
- Year 9 – ACO9@waverley.bham.sch.uk
- Year 10 – ACO10@waverley.bham.sch.uk
- Year 12– enquiry@waverley.bham.sch.uk

This is the official NHS self-test video that has been produced to instruct a person to carry out a self-test. It shows you the stages:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=1>

Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff

All adults who live in households with Primary School, Secondary School and/or Sixth Form/college age children, are being asked by the government to test themselves twice a week.

As the overwhelming majority of pupils and students return to the classroom the Government has asked that these adults including those in childcare and support bubbles, test themselves twice a week.

Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 do not have any symptoms but can still pass it on. The aim of the rapid testing is to test as many people as possible to help stop the spread of infections – especially as places, such as schools.

To support this, home testing kits (a rapid lateral flow device test) are now available for anyone who is over the age of 18 who lives in the same home as a Primary School, Secondary School and/or Sixth Form/college age student.

People who are asymptomatic (do not display symptoms of Covid-19) can find out how to get a rapid lateral flow test by visiting the following government website link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Here is a link to finding locations in the community where you can pick up testing kits: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Reporting results of LFD Tests carried out at home

It is really important that results of all self-testing kits (pupils' kits or kits obtained for families) are reported to the NHS. You can do this by visiting [the Government's Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result webpage \(opens in new window\)](#) or over the phone by calling 119.

If anyone in the household tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should tell the school and:

- Self-isolate immediately
- Get a PCR test at a local test centre to confirm the result. PCR Tests work in a different way to lateral flow device tests as the swab kits go to a laboratory. The PCR tests are better at finding very small amounts of the virus, especially in early infection, so these are used primarily in people who have symptoms.

- Follow the guidance on [the Government's webpage for households with possible infection \(opens in new window\)](#).

A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus, but this does not guarantee people do not have coronavirus, so they should keep following all the guidance on [the Government's coronavirus advice webpage \(opens in new window\)](#) including:

- Regular handwashing
- Social distancing
- Wearing a face covering where recommended

As we have said in previous letters, the vaccination roll-out gives us real hope that we are winning the battle against COVID-19. We strongly advocate that every adult who is offered the vaccination and can have it does so. By doing this, recipients play a vital role in protecting our school, our local community, our nation and the wider world.

Thank you for your ongoing support in these extraordinary times.

Yours sincerely,

S. Dosanjh

Mrs. S Dosanjh
Principal - Primary Phase

A Lloyd

Mrs. A Lloyd
Principal - Secondary and Sixth Form
Phase