

Our Ref CM/PK

6 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

New Academic Year

I hope you have all had a lovely summer break and that our pupils are looking forward to a new academic year. We have a lot of new young people joining us at Exhall and I extend a very warm welcome to them and look forward to getting to know them.

As you are aware there have been a lifting of Covid measures during August and I wanted to let you know what this means for our school community.

It is expected that Educational Settings will continue to:

- Promote full vaccination of all staff, alongside promoting vaccination among appropriate pupils and parents.
- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Please note that from the 16th August 2021 onwards, close contacts who have had both doses of vaccination (more than 14 clear days prior to date of exposure to case) and those aged under 18 years and 6 months will not be required to self-isolate (unless they are symptomatic or test positive), but will be asked to take a PCR test. They will also continue to be asked to consider continuing with twice weekly LFT testing, limiting their social contact, and wearing face coverings in indoor public spaces.

This in effect means the following for the new academic year:-

- Bubbles will end
- Social distancing will no longer be necessary
- Only those staff and pupils who test positive will have to isolate
- School will no longer be responsible for any contact tracing
- Those identified as close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test and only need to isolate if they test positive
- Pupils need to self-isolate if they have symptoms of Covid or a positive test result

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- Protective measures will remain in place for the autumn term to include good hygiene, ventilation and regular LFT testing until the end of September
- Two onsite tests will be taken for every secondary pupil with consent on return followed by twice weekly testing at home. (This will be reviewed by the Government by the end of September)
- Face coverings will no longer be necessary in any education setting
- All education staff are urged to get both vaccine doses if they have not yet done so
- CEV people/pupils no longer advised to shield

September School

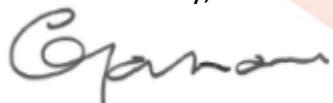
- Year 7 will be invited into school on the afternoon of Friday 3 September between 1.30 and 3.30 to undertake an LFD test. This will take place in the transition area and will be operated by designated school staff
- Post 16 will be tested on Monday 6 September
- Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will be tested on Tuesday 7 September
- All secondary pupils will then be retested on Friday 10 September
- The canteen will be reinstated and pupils who eat hot meals and packed lunches will eat in the dining room
- Hand hygiene will continue and pupils will be expected to use hand sanitiser upon entry to the school
- Desk cleaning will continue and there will be an expectation that staff will wipe down desks twice per day – after break and after lunch
- It is an expectation that staff keep their classrooms well ventilated whilst maintaining a comfortable working environment
- If anyone in school develops Covid 19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and should follow Public Health advice
- If anyone has a positive LFD test, they will need to self-isolate and take a PCR test
- Assemblies will be reinstated gradually with only year groups to start with
- Fogging of areas of the school will continue

We will be taking time to help our pupils familiarise themselves with these new arrangements on Tuesday.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at school should you have any questions, comments or queries regarding these arrangements.

My grateful thanks again for your continued support during these unusual times.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Christine Marshall
Headteacher