



1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## COVID-19 Update

I hope that you have had a good half term break with your children. Further to the brief update yesterday evening I wanted to provide a more detailed update today, as we approach the winter of uncertainty that has been a cause for concern for many months now.

In the weeks before half-term we had relatively few cases affecting our students, and it is still the case that we have yet to have evidence of in-school transmission. This is thanks to the support of you, our families, in sustaining lateral flow tests at home, ensuring that your children understand the importance of regular hand-washing; and keeping symptomatic children at home where they can recover. It is also due to measures taken in school, where we continue to implement Government guidance, when we have it, and seek to keep learning in school as normal as possible, whilst erring on the side of caution.

We are located in one of the areas of the UK currently with one of the highest concentrations of COVID-19 infections, and therefore the weeks ahead may get rather bumpy as we navigate through this half term. In BCP and Dorset schools, due to a significant increase in outbreaks and cases in school age children, more risk-reduction measures are being put in place. As a precaution, we are reinstating the requirement to wear a face-mask in crowded areas such as corridors or the dining hall. Those students who are medically exempt are asked to help staff to know that they are exempt, by wearing their lanyard. We will also ask students to wear masks in assemblies. Sports fixtures and other clubs will continue as normal for now, although extra care will be taken to ensure that risks of transmission are reduced.

We will also be reducing visits to the campus, and so it will be the norm, for now, for meetings with parents to be held via Teams. In addition, the Year 11 Information evening this week will now be a remote event.

All measures will be kept under review, and as you have seen previously, we will move back to normal ways of working at the earliest, safest opportunity to do so; and will hold in reserve further tightening of preventative controls should the need arise.

I am aware that a high number of positive PCR results have arisen among our families during the half term break, and myself and my colleagues send our thoughts to families affected, wishing you all a swift and full recovery.

As ever, our "here to help" email inbox will be checked throughout the day, and we will do whatever we can to assist with queries.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Antram  
Headteacher