



10th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Update on Covid Precautionary Measures

As you know, the guidance to schools around measures in place to mitigate against the spread of infection changes regularly and I thought I would update you with the latest situation. Do remember that things can change quite quickly.

Covid symptoms

The main indicators of Covid are: a high temperature, a new continuous cough, loss of sense of taste or smell. **If your child experiences any of these symptoms they must self-isolate and book a PCR test.** Please do not send them to school as they will be sent home. Feedback from our school community is that many people experience 'cold-like' symptoms such as feeling achy or having a headache over a long period. We recommend booking a PCR test in these circumstances too.

Lateral Flow testing

Pupils and staff should conduct home Lateral Flow tests at least twice per week and daily if anyone in their household has Covid symptoms or has tested positive. **We strongly encourage every student to be tested.**

For year groups where a student has tested positive, we will attempt to test all students each weekday for 7 days if parents have given consent.

If you test positive on an LFD you need to self-isolate. **From Tuesday 11th January you no longer need to book a PCR test to confirm a positive LFD test.**

Self-isolation.

Pupils must self-isolate if they experience symptoms or test positive for Covid on either a PCR test or a home LFD test. If a PCR test comes back as negative, then they can come out of isolation.

Pupils should self-isolate for 10 days unless they test negative on a home LFD on day 6 and day 7. If both of these are negative then they can come out of isolation on day 7. If one or both are positive then they need two consecutive days of negative tests before they can come out of isolation. If your child is returning to school earlier than 10 days as a result of 2 consecutive negative tests, then please inform the school by calling the school: 01923673268 or email me directly kjames@stanboroughpark.herts.sch.uk. If a pupil takes their test early in the morning of day 7 and it is their **second consecutive** negative test, then they can come to school on that day. We will require confirmation of this from parents/carers before pupils are admitted back into lessons.

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Boarding School

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Anyone self-isolating can come out of self-isolation after day 10, regardless of whether they have tested positive on an LFD, so long as they do not have a high temperature.

Household isolation

If someone in your household tests positive or has symptoms of Covid then the rest of the household does not have to self-isolate so long as they are under 18 years, 6 months or have been fully vaccinated. However, all members of the household should test themselves daily for 7 days using a home LFD.

Face coverings

All pupils should continue to wear masks in communal areas and in class and in the exam hall (unless they are exempt). Please ensure that your child brings a mask into school with them each day. We appreciate that wearing a mask all day can be uncomfortable so pupils may remove their mask temporarily in a classroom or in an exam if they feel discomfort. Teaching staff may also ask pupils to temporarily lower their masks to aid communication in the classroom or around school. Masks do not need to be worn outside and we recommend that pupils use our outdoor spaces at break and lunchtime. The guidance on face coverings is due to be reviewed at the end of January.

Ventilation

Teachers will use their discretion in deciding to open windows during lessons. It is mandatory for all classroom doors to be open during lesson time. We will continue to monitor this, but the school is well heated, and rooms were of a comfortable temperature last term. We do not plan to permit the wearing of coats at this stage.

Other measures

1. Pupils must avoid communal areas indoors unless they are travelling to/from classrooms for lessons. They should not congregate in corridors or stairwells and only congregate outside form rooms at the start of lessons.
2. During break and lunchtimes, students should go to their designated areas. This will greatly reduce the number of contacts pupils have in the day and so reduce the risk of infection.
3. Only essential visitors will be allowed to come into school; wherever possible meetings will be postponed or held remotely.
4. Pupils should sanitise their hands on arrival at school and in each lesson.

Anxiety of our students

We have been informed that numerous students have been getting anxious, as a result of finding out that their peers have contracted the virus. Please reassure your children that we are doing all we can to keep them safe and that the symptoms of Covid are usually mild.

Remote access and setting work for self-isolating pupils

Students who are self-isolating will be encouraged to attend lessons via our online platform, Google Classroom. If students log into google classroom, they should see the invite code

already available, and teachers will ensure that students have access to the learning remotely. This is with the exception of Food Technology, Horticulture and Physical Education, where possible the teacher will attempt to set work for the student to complete at home.

If your child is not unwell after testing positive for Covid, it is expected that they attend the lessons remotely and complete the work set so that they can access the curriculum alongside pupils who are in school. Teaching staff will endeavour to set the work as close to the lesson time as possible, but there may be a delay sometimes with sending material due to staff workload. Staff will not be able to significantly adapt lesson resources for pupils at home if they are delivering live lessons to the year group in school.

If your child is unwell after testing positive for COVID, please let me know and I will inform teachers that your child will not be attending the lesson remotely or completing any work.

Contingency plans for school closures

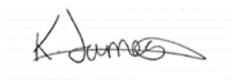
I will do everything that I can to keep school open for all pupils. However, there were times last term when staffing became very difficult due to the large number of staff having to self-isolate. It has been very difficult to recruit agency staff and there have been times when we are only able to cover lessons by asking our staff to work additional hours. I am mindful of the impact this has had on our staff and their own wellbeing and work-life balance.

We created a rigorous [COVID-19 Outbreak Contingency Plan – January 2022](#) describing what do if, students or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how we would operate if we were advised to reintroduce any measures described in this document to help break chains of transmission. We are therefore making contingency plans for a scenario where we cannot fully staff the school.

My priority will always be to maintain on-site teaching for Year 11 and those students with specific educational needs. If remote learning becomes necessary, we will try to notify parents/carers at least one day before any year groups have to work at home and will aim to make provision for vulnerable pupils on site where we can.

Thank you for your patience and support with all that we are doing. I know that there are a range of views about the extent to which such measures should be implemented but feel that what we are doing as a school strikes an appropriate balance.

Yours faithfully,



Mr K. James
Interim Head teacher