

11th October 2021

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

COVID-19 Update

I hope this letter finds you well and rested after the weekend break.

I am writing as a way of an update on COVID cases in school and the control measures we have in place to minimise the risk and at the same time ensure a continuity of education for all our young people.

As I am sure you are aware, cases of COVID-19 are increasing both in Southampton and beyond. Whilst the number of live cases at Cantell has gone down from 30 to 28, we are seeing a significant reduction in cases in those year groups that have been asked to wear face coverings.

In example, in Year 11 and Year 8 there are only two live cases. This represents only 0.42% of those year groups.

Whilst the number of live cases in other year groups remains relatively low, we have seen a slight increase over the weekend in Years 9 and 10. In these year groups, there are a total of 15 cases which represents 3% of those year groups.

As a result of the increasing rate of infections in Southampton and to ensure we maximise the numbers of students accessing face to face education, I have asked Years 9 and 10 to join the other year groups in wearing face coverings. This means that our whole school community will revert to wearing face coverings at the following times:

1. In all lessons except Physical Education
2. In and around corridors during lesson changeover when large groups of students are moving around the school
3. Going to and coming from social areas during breaks and lunchtimes when in large groups of more than 10 (indoor and outdoor)

Students DO NOT need to wear face coverings when outdoors or when moving around the School at other times when there are not large crowds. Students will also be given two five minute breaks from wearing face coverings in every lesson, the timing of which is up to the teacher.

We hope that the 'stepping up' of this control measure is temporary and acts as a 'circuit breaker' reducing the numbers disrupted by COVID in the next two weeks and across the October Half Term break.



Please can I ask for your support in ensuring your young person comes to school with a face covering and ideally a change of face covering. Disposable face coverings from the school are not the answer and have a damaging impact on the environment and whilst we will hold some for emergencies, the expectation very much is that young people bring their own. Thank you in advance of your support in this.

We have two weeks left until half term and have achieved so much as a community. It has been great to get back to normality with trips, visits and extra-curricular clubs at the front and centre of what we are doing, alongside of course strong teaching and learning. The 'stepping up' of face coverings across the school will only help to ensure this is not disrupted for individuals and groups of students.

Please can I take this opportunity to thank parents, students and staff for their kind well wishes last week. I am pleased to say that I am back in school and recovering well.

As always, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me - head@cantell.co.uk or headspa@cantell.co.uk

Warmest Regards,



Harry Kutty
Headteacher

