



21st September 2021

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

COVID-19 Update

I hope this letter finds you well and rested after the weekend. I write as an update to my letter dated 13th of September where I informed you of a rise in cases of COVID-19 in our Year 11.

As a result, we temporarily introduced face coverings for this year group. I have been hugely impressed with the maturity and responsibility Year 11 have shown in wearing their face covering and thank them for their efforts. I am pleased to say that we have started to welcome back some of our Year 11 students that have been off with COVID-19 and I am even more pleased to report that their symptoms remained relatively mild. **Unfortunately, over the weekend we have had a handful of further cases in this Year group so we will be asking Year 11 to continue to wear a face covering in class in areas of the school which are crowded indoors - generally between lessons or to or from social times.**

We have a small number of cases in other Year groups but have started to see a rise in Year 8 over the last few days. As a result, we have temporarily re-introduced face coverings with this Year group as per the same guidelines in Year 11.

I appreciate these decisions are frustrating and whilst we know the level of serious illness and/or hospitalisation as a result of COVID-19 is low, the virus continues to disrupt the education of individuals and it is essential that we adjust our control measures to minimise and mitigate the risk.

As you would expect, Year Leaders, the Senior Leadership Team and I are regularly reviewing the impact of COVID-19 on our School. The rise in cases we have seen are mirrored across Schools in Southampton, Hampshire and beyond. We will continue to step up or down our contingency measures in a proportionate way to balance the safety and continuity of education with our young people and our shared desire to get back to normal.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that if your young person is well and not displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 that they should be attending School as normal. Any young person displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate and get tested via a PCR test (not a LFD test).

Thank you for your support in ensuring regular asymptomatic testing takes place within our community - either one saliva test per week or two LFD tests per week, to be carried out at home. A combination of the two can also be used.



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

