



4th October 2021

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

COVID-19 Update

I hope this letter finds you well and rested after the weekend break. We finished off last week with our Horizons event on Friday, which launched our Extra-Curricular programme for this academic year, 2021-22. Our students had the opportunity to hear from a variety of guest speakers including members of the Cantell Alumni and were then able to learn and experience the wide range and variety of clubs and activities on offer at the School. I am incredibly grateful for the 'above and beyond' efforts of our staff and the exemplary way our students conducted themselves throughout the day.

Equally as successful was our Enrichment Day for Year 11 focussed on life skills and applying for the next stage of education, employment, or training. Again, our students did themselves and us proud and I am in no doubt their interaction with these sessions will be invaluable for them in the future.

We continue to run these all-important events to ensure our students have the very best educational experience we can offer them. Sadly, the pandemic is not over and continues to cause disruption to the education and work of students and staff up and down the Country. We are no different and I am grateful for the support shown by our community as we step up or indeed step down the control measures we have in place adapting to the latest information we have in School, locally and beyond.

As a result of a handful of cases this weekend in Year 7, we are now asking Year 7 to join Year 8 and Year 11 in wearing face coverings in class and in crowded indoor spaces - primarily when moving between lessons or coming back or going to social times. Students do not need to wear face coverings when outdoors. All students wearing face coverings will be given two 5 minute opportunities to remove face coverings when the class (and the teacher) are working in silence.

The decision to re-instate face coverings is not taken lightly and is done so not just on the number of cases but a number of other variables that we have got used to triangulating over the last 18 months. As a result, we will be monitoring Year 9 very closely to see if we need to take similar measures here. We will also be reviewing the measures put in place in Year 8 over the next few days.

For your information the number of students who are out of school having tested positive for COVID-19, as of this morning is 30. For context - this is less than 3% of the school's student population. By year group, we have:



Year 7 - 9
Year 8 - 4
Year 9 - 7
Year 10 - 5
Year 11 - 5

The number of staff who are out of school having tested positive for COVID19, as of this morning is 3. For context - this is less than 2% of the school's staff population. For absolute transparency - I am one of those staff. My symptoms are generally mild, and I am able to work from home, which is where I write this letter from! I am, as you would expect frustrated that I cannot be at school but look forward to my return next week. In my absence, although I can still be contacted via my PA, Michelle Burt - headspa@cantell.co.uk, I am grateful to Claire Herridge and Ian Creswell for holding the "fort"!

We will continue to review all control measure decisions we make on a daily basis and will update you as and when.

Warmest Regards,



Harry Kutty
Headteacher

