



Introduction

As you may be aware, we are currently experiencing a slight spike in COVID cases, both at Prep and College, and amongst pupils and staff, and so are writing to set out the measures that we will be adopting with effect from Monday 22 November.

Face coverings

From Monday, all pupils and staff in Year 7 and above will be required to wear a face covering indoors in the public areas of the school, and when queuing for meals.

They will **not** be expected to wear face covering in lessons, in their House areas, or in the Dining Hall, though may do so, if they wish.

All pupils in Year 7 and above who study Design Technology in the Westall Centre at the College are to continue wearing a face covering. Those Year 7 pupils who study DT at the Prep are not required to wear a face covering during their DT lessons.

Hand sanitising and cleaning of shared equipment

We will be reintroducing the practice of sanitising pupils' hands at the start and end of every lesson, and desks and other shared equipment will be wiped down with viricidal spray at the end of every lesson.

Social distancing

Within reason, and without reintroducing strict year-group household areas, year groups will be restricted to year group areas within their Houses and a greater degree of separation between year groups will be imposed at meal times.

Assessments

Assessments for Years 3 to 8 at the Prep and for Year 9 at the College will go ahead. In order to maintain the integrity of the process, assessment papers will not be sent home.

We will, however, do what we can to enable those pupils who are absent from school for any assessments to sit them under something approaching exam conditions at another time.

Close contacts

Though it makes us uneasy, the government's position is clear; pupils who share a household with someone with COVID are not required to self-isolate and may continue to come into school.

The government does, however, advise that all close contacts (so, household and close family members) should take a PCR test immediately, and we would ask that all our parents do what they can to protect the school community by acting on this advice.

Sport

We will continue to play sport in adherence with the guidelines laid down by the national governing bodies, and will continue to play as many competitive fixtures as we are able to arrange, though other schools are experiencing similar difficulties as we are, of course.

Performance Sport

Having reviewed the delivery of the performance swimming and girls' football programmes, we are content that no significant or structural changes need to be made to this.

Temperature and Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing

We will not be reintroducing temperature testing on arrival at school, though we would urgently encourage all our parents to redouble their efforts to ensure their children self-test with a LFD on Mondays and Thursdays, and report the results using both the government's online form and the school's.

Chapel, assemblies, concerts and plays

There will be a moratorium on all in-person chapel services, assemblies, concerts and plays, though as far as possible, we will continue with these online.

The final few weeks of the Michaelmas Term, of course, bring a range of concerts, plays and carol services, which we would be loath to forego, and we will be doing as much as we possibly can. Parents will be kept up-to-date on developments in this respect.

Parental visits and access to the School

Parents are more than welcome to continue to support any outdoor activity, but from Monday parent access to the school buildings will be significantly restricted. Parents who wish to meet with members of staff should make arrangements to do so online.

Ventilation

Cognisant of the November weather, we will do whatever we reasonably can to ensure ample ventilation in classrooms and house areas, with classroom doors and windows remaining open as far as possible.

Parents should be assured, however, that safeguarding and the prevention of harm to children remains the priority at all times.

Response to, and management of, a suspected or confirmed case of COVID

The protocols regarding the response to and management of suspected and confirmed cases remain as detailed in the last Parent Update, though these bear repetition here.

The following procedures still apply:

If a member of the school community develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test whilst at home			
	Immediate action	Inform	Next steps
Academic staff	<p>Remain at home</p> <p>Do not come into school</p>	Adam Reid (College) Dom Floyd (Prep)	Follow the government guidance here .
Support staff		Jessica Paine	
Day Pupil		Housemaster or Housemistress	Order and take a PCR test.
Boarder			

If a member of staff develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test whilst at school			
	Immediate action	As soon as you get home, inform	Next steps
Academic staff	<p>Go home immediately, with as little contact with others as possible</p>	Adam Reid (College) Dom Floyd (Prep)	Follow government guidance .
Support staff		Jessica Paine	Order and take a PCR test. Keep the school informed.

If a pupil develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test whilst at school			
	Immediate action	Next steps	Subsequent steps
Day pupil or boarder 8:30 – 18:00	<p>Report to Reception at Prep or College.</p> <p>Don face mask, sanitise hands, and maintain social distancing</p> <p>Move pupil into the isolation room.</p>	<p>Parents of day pupils and UK boarders will be required to collect the pupil immediately.</p> <p>Overseas boarders will be moved into longer-term isolation accommodation.</p>	<p>Follow government guidance.</p> <p>Order and take a PCR test.</p>

If a pupil develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test whilst at school			
	Immediate action	Next steps	Subsequent steps
Boarder 18:00 – 8:30	<p>Report to House Matron or Prep Matron</p> <p>Maintain social distancing</p> <p>Move into the isolation room</p>	<p>Parents will be informed and the pupil moved either to temporary isolation accommodation, or to longer-term isolation accommodation.</p>	<p>As determined by SLT, in consultation with School Nurse and HSO.</p>

Conclusion

As we thought might be the case, we are back once again in choppy waters, so we all need to hold tight and take care. We are optimistic, however, that the squall will pass, and it will do so more quickly if everyone plays their part in keeping our community safe.

These precautions and counter-measures will be kept under constant review, but will be formally re-assessed in a fortnight's time.