

20 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Important update about COVID 19: face coverings and testing

Today I have spoken with York PHE and senior colleagues in our Trust about the number of positive cases of COVID 19 within the school community. Under the 'contingency plan', a threshold is met when five students, likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID 19 within a ten-day period. Unfortunately, we have met this threshold in several year groups and, in discussion with Public Health, the following additional measures have been put in place.

Face Coverings

It remains compulsory for students and staff to wear face coverings in indoor communal areas whilst:

- Entering the school and leaving the building
- During transition between lessons and to and from the Main and Dining Hall at break and lunch.

However, due to the threshold being met, from Tuesday 21 September until 3.00pm on Friday 1 October, **it will be compulsory for all students to wear face coverings in classrooms.**

We recommend that your child brings at least one spare face covering each day. For the benefit of the environment and due to the cost of disposable face coverings, we recommend reusable options.

We ask that you contact the relevant Progress Leader if your child is exempt from wearing a face covering. Where parents have previously informed us about this, there is no need to do so.

Twice weekly testing

We strongly encourage all students to test themselves using Lateral Flow Devices, twice weekly at home. On the day of the test, please report the results to the NHS Test and Trace website.

NHS Test and Trace website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

If a positive result, please call our attendance officer on 01904 560000 option 1 and book a confirmatory PCR test. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, your child should not attend school and should self-isolate.

Vale of York Academy

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Email: hello@voy.hslt.academy

Website: voy.hslt.academy

Close Contacts

Schools are no longer expected to identify the close contacts of cases of COVID-19 (unless in very exceptional circumstances) as this is done by the national Test and Trace system. We have been informed by York PHE that Test and Trace may be in touch with you in the coming days if your child is identified as a close contact by them.

Students who are close contacts of someone with COVID-19 are no longer required to isolate, unless they develop symptoms. However, they are advised to get a PCR test, and they are at higher risk of developing COVID-19 in the days after contact. They do not need to isolate while they wait for the result, unless they have symptoms.

Your child should continue to attend school unless they develop symptoms of COVID-19 or are unwell. If they do develop symptoms, please keep your child at home and book a PCR test for them.

The 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 remain

- A fever (temperature 37.8°C or higher)
- A new continuous cough
- A change to/loss of taste or smell

However, other commonly reported symptoms of the Delta variant include headache, sore throat, tiredness and cold-like symptoms, so please be aware of these as well and stay at home and seek testing if you are in any doubt.

We have been very pleased with how students have returned to school and how they have embraced learning with such positivity. It has also been really pleasing to see such high rates of participation in activities after school and these events will continue throughout the two week period of additional measures.

I would like to thank you for your support and we will continue to keep you informed.

Yours faithfully



Mr T Eastaugh
Principal