

Our Ref: PRC/EMH

06 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As promised, below are last week's Covid cases in each year group:

New Year 10	New Year 11	New Year 13
11	3	9

Other senior colleagues and I attended an Outbreak Assurance Review meeting with Public Health and the Local Authority last Thursday. Public Health have looked at the epidemiology of our cases and the control measures implemented and are very satisfied with everything we are doing. The rise in cases at Gosforth mirror the higher transmission rates locally and nationally as no doubt you have read in the press. All schools in Newcastle have seen a rise in cases and no Newcastle secondary school has shut full year groups- the message is to keep year groups open unless there is a business continuity risk not to e.g. staffing levels decrease to an unmanageable level. Thankfully, whilst staff absence is also on the rise, we're not at the stage yet. We know how unsustainable the current situation is and we are awaiting details of new plans from the Government regarding close contact isolation.

Parents can support by not ringing the school to ask for details of a positive Covid case, or to ask when their child was in contact with the case as we are not allowed to disclose this information. We appreciate how difficult it is for parents when children have long periods at home to isolate or are sent home multiple times but this is beyond our control and we have to follow current government guidance. We want to keep the school open and will only send students home when it is absolutely necessary. Work will be set for them on Frog and some live teams lessons will also take place. Students can also contact staff whenever they wish. Staff are working very hard to do all the close contact tracing whilst teaching those at school and those at home.

Have a good week and thanks as always for your understanding.

Yours faithfully



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