

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families are keeping well; you will be pleased to know my update will be brief.

Since I last wrote to you there has been some good news around potential vaccines and this weekend's ONS data shows a levelling off of infection rates in England. This gives us some hope for the future which we all need at the moment.

In general Public Health Newcastle tell us transmission within schools is still rare but transmission from the community into schools is still causing disruption to education. Following a confirmed positive case we continue to go through our close contact tracing procedures. Many thanks for your understanding to those who have experienced this disruption; unfortunately, some more than once. May I remind all students who are sent home due to being a close contact to log on to Frog each day, complete the work given and be pro-active in getting in touch if you need support. Year 11 students who attended Review Day last Tuesday were given a pack of revision guides so those students have plenty of work to be doing.

Despite difficult circumstances the school is running very smoothly. I am extremely proud of the way students are conducting themselves, particularly with regards to uniform. May I remind you that if a student has PE they can wear their logotised PE kit to school. If for whatever reason they still do not have this they should wear their normal school uniform with their PE kit in their bag. Wearing non-logotised PE uniform is not permitted. For Sixth Form students there is no access to site unless they are wearing an ID badge. For safeguarding reasons the ID badge must be worn when they are in the building. Re-enforcement of this by parents would be greatly appreciated.

I must also let you know that our staff are doing a truly amazing job too. This ranges from covering for absent colleagues, moving from room to room often with suitcases full of resources rolling behind them and during any 'down time' colleagues are still trying to set meaningful remote work for those at home. Our support staff are equally amazing ranging from enhanced cleaning schedules to the huge array of administration duties which need to be undertaken in a school of our size. This is undoubtedly the most challenging time of

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our careers and their sterling efforts are keeping the school running. I can assure you that whilst things aren't perfect, they are the best they can be given the circumstances.

Finally, can I remind parents that you must not send your child in to school if they have any Covid symptoms and they must not return until they have the results of a test.

Equally, you must tell us immediately if you have confirmation of a positive case so we can do close contact tracing quickly. Hearing this news through hearsay or social media is something we wish to avoid.

I promised I'd be brief, so that's it for now! Look after yourselves.

Preit Chahal  
Principal