

24 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid 19 update

This week, the Government withdrew its guidance for staff, children and young people in most education settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

The risks of severe illness from COVID-19 in most children and most fully vaccinated adults are now very low, and the successful vaccination programme has achieved a high rate of take-up, the Government has changed its advice, bringing education into line with wider society.

The Government has stated that education testing delivery channels will remain open so that staff, children and young people of secondary age and above can access tests if needed to respond to local public health advice, in particular in relation to outbreaks. Staff, children and young people are also able to access test kits from their local pharmacy or [online](#).

From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

In addition, the Government will:

- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.
- End the legal obligation for individuals to tell their employers when they are required to self-isolate.

What does this mean for Wootton Academy Trust?

There are still relatively high numbers of cases in our local community. This week, a number of staff and pupils are not in school/college. Therefore, the Trust have asked for a phased return to normality.

We will retain the wearing of face coverings in communal areas. We will review the situation in a week and, if necessary, the week after.

We will continue to encourage pupils to sanitize their hands regularly and to follow the procedures that we know help us to keep everyone safe.

We will ask staff, children and young people who have symptoms to test and if they record a positive test to remain at home until they test negative.

At the same time, we want to return to normality, and therefore from Monday February 28 we will return to our normal uniform in lessons. Staff, children and young people will no longer wear outdoor coats in lessons.

We are looking at the opportunities and events we can plan for coming weeks and months.

Thank you for all your support through what has been a challenging time for everyone.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CMcMorn'.

Mrs McMorn
Head of School