

Bishop Wordsworth's School

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5 September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

Covid Mitigations – Autumn Term 2021

As the whole school returns next week we wanted to update you on the measures we are taking to minimise the risk for students and staff.

The current information we have received regarding the Coronavirus indicates the main spread is via the airborne route, this is particularly the case with the variants that have been identified.

Based on the requirements outlined by the Department for Education and advice we have received, the following will be important measures in minimising infection levels:

- Lateral Flow Testing all students are to have two tests in school on their return and then continue with twice weekly testing until the end of September. Students who test positive will need to have a follow up PCR Test, with close contacts undertaking daily testing but remaining in school unless they themselves test positive.
- Rooms to be well ventilated all windows and doors to be open to allow air to circulate. All room usage should ideally be no longer than an hour in length and students should leave the rooms after this time to allow the air to replenish. This fits well with our current timetable, with lessons of a maximum of 1 hour in length. The nature of the school means there are very few other enclosed spaces, so the students are at a lower risk when not in lessons. (We purchased a CO2 monitor last term to monitor rooms and the air quality was good if appropriate levels of ventilation were maintained).
- Face Masks one of the most basic measures everyone can undertake to prevent infection levels rising is the use of a face mask. The national advice for this has changed since the last academic year but we would strongly recommend students use face masks in lessons due to the time spent in the rooms and their proximity to others. If the cases nationally continue to rise, particularly in the younger age groups, we may well have to make the wearing of masks compulsory again in lessons. Sensible use of masks now may help prevent this next step having to be taken.
- **Hand sanitising** the hand sanitiser dispensers on site will remain in place and should continue to be used to help with basic hygiene measures.
- **Designated outdoor areas** all year groups will continue to have specific areas of the school to use at break and lunch times.

We have tried to adopt sensible approaches to keeping the school open and I hope the school community will support these measures to help us continue in this way.

I wish everybody a safe return to school.

Yours sincerely

Graham Lloyd

Deputy Headmaster