



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

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13 September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

## Covid Mitigations – Autumn Term 2021 Update

I wrote to you at the start of the term regarding the measures we were taking to minimise the risk for students and staff. Having reviewed the first two weeks of term it is clear the case numbers are rising and the main spread for the virus is via the airborne route, particularly with the current variants. On this basis we now need to add to the mitigations in place to keep students safe and at school, in line with the government legislation, so we are updating our advice as follows to try to minimise and reduce infection levels:

- **Lateral Flow Testing** – all students should now be **testing twice a week at home**. If they have a positive test they should then have a follow up PCR Test. If the PCR test is negative they can return to school; if it is positive, NHS Test & Trace will notify you of the period of isolation. If other members of the family test positive your son or daughter can still come to school if they have a negative result from a test.
- **Face Masks** – due to the number of cases across all year groups we have now reached the threshold where we need to inform Public Health England. On this basis, from **Wednesday 15 September**, face masks will now be required in all lessons, Sixth Form study rooms, ICT rooms and the library. They will also be required in any room where the occupants will be together for over 15 minutes and in close proximity. (This will not apply if you are exempt from wearing a mask as previously outlined by the guidance).
- **School Assemblies** – weekly assemblies and collective worship with multiple year groups will be paused. They will be replaced with individual year group assemblies, which the Heads of School will produce a programme for and inform the students. The individual year group Chapel Services will continue as normal.

The following mitigations will continue as before:

- **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.
- **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 will review these measures on a weekly basis to make the school as safe as possible, and I hope the school community will support these measures to help us continue in this way.

With regards

Graham Lloyd  
Deputy Headmaster