



2nd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid precautions and end of term events

As I'm sure you are all aware, we are all having to adapt quickly to the developing situation concerning the new variant of Covid-19. This letter details some of the precautions we have put in place and their impact upon end of term activities.

Face masks

Firstly, thank you very much for swiftly ensuring that students were provided with face coverings for the start of this week. As with the previous period during which face coverings were worn in school, we would like, as quickly as possible, to move away from the use of disposable face masks which create a large amount of unnecessary waste. Therefore, from Monday 6th December, all students will be required to wear a reusable face covering. This should either be a Bournside face covering or a similar, washable, dark coloured mask without a prominent logo or design. At present, masks should be worn in assemblies, after-school events where more than one year group is mixing, in corridors and in the dining centres. Masks do not need to be worn during lessons or outside. Additional face masks can be purchased from the dining centre for £2.

Testing

Please could I remind you of the need for students to carry out lateral flow tests at least twice a week. Students will be provided with test kits by their tutor in the course of next week.

There have been suggestions from the government that schools will be requested to carry out testing when students return from the Christmas break; we do not have details on this yet but will make any arrangements known to you as soon as we are aware of expectations.

Christmas events

Nearly all planned Christmas events will go ahead as expected. The only exception to this is the Year 8 Christmas disco which we had hoped to hold in the last week of term. In an event such as a carol concert or assembly where we are able to control the way people move into and out of the room and, when they are in the room, they are sat still, facing the same way, and wearing face masks, the risk of transmission is low. These precautions mean that the level of risk of transmission is controlled and these events can go ahead. However, none of these measures could be implemented at a disco and so the risk cannot be reduced to low enough levels to make it safe, in the current circumstances, for the event to take place. We very much want to give this year group the opportunities they have missed over the last few years and so our current plan is to postpone the disco until February. We will, however, be offering our Year 8 students the opportunity to enjoy a Christmas Movie night in the last week of term.

All other school events will go ahead as planned. Details of all these events will be provided in the next couple of days.

School production

We are all excitedly looking forward to the school production of Joseph. Unless the situation changes and different advice is received, rehearsals and the performance itself will be going ahead as planned.

Risk Assessment

We have updated our risk assessment in line with the latest amended guidance. This can be accessed [here](#) on our website.

We would encourage anyone visiting a school event to take a lateral flow test before coming to the event, to use the hand sanitiser which will be provided and wear a face covering; in some cases we have reduced the number of visitors at events to ensure that venues are not overcrowded. We currently have very low levels of covid related absence (approximately 2%) and this, along with the precautions detailed, means we feel confident to go ahead with our end of term events.

Thank you again for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Jefferies', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Jefferies
Headteacher