

Tudor Grange Samworth Academy

A Church of England School



25th June 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Over the last week we have seen that the cases of COVID-19 in Leicester have been increasing, particularly amongst secondary school children. The more transmissible 'Delta' variant (the variant of concern) is now the dominant strain in Leicester with the infection rate significantly higher than the national average.

Last week we received information that one Year 9 pupil and two Year 10 pupils tested positive from both LFT and PCR tests. As a result, we have asked 57 pupils to self-isolate for 10-days. Although these cases are not related and nothing to be alarmed about, it does indicate the importance of following the protection measures which reduce the transmission of this virus.

I have been working closely with other school leaders in Leicester as well as with the Local Health Protection team. With just two weeks of school remaining before the holidays, we are keen to avoid an outbreak at the school. I am particularly keen to avoid having to ask pupils to revert to remote learning or self-isolation as we move towards the summer holidays.

Having reviewed our most recent risk assessment, I am writing to you for your support with some key reminders and to inform you of some additional preventative measures we will be taking to try and reduce the risk to our school community. I hope that adopting a proactive approach will allow us to continue to run the school as 'normally' as possible during the final weeks of the summer term.

Face coverings

The guidance to schools includes the advice that *"the reintroduction of face coverings for staff and those in year 7, or equivalent, and above may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern"*.

I am recommending that pupils wear face coverings in all indoor areas, including classrooms, from Monday 28th June. We know that pupils coped well with this requirement on their return to school in March and, whilst obviously not ideal, we are confident that pupils will quickly adapt to this again. We will continue to support pupils who are exempt from wearing face coverings by asking them to wear an orange pin badge for easy identification.

Testing

Testing remains the most effective way of finding and isolating cases to try and prevent transmission. We are asking that you continue to test using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) twice weekly (Sunday evening and Wednesday evening). Test results should be reported to the NHS (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>) and via School Screener.

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Symptoms and self-isolation

Many of the local cases have been identified as the Delta variant of the virus. Information from local schools would indicate that the symptoms pupils are experiencing are not necessarily the ones we have been asking you to be vigilant to:

- a high temperature, and/or
- a new continuous cough
- loss of sense of taste or smell

Whilst Leicester and National advice remains clear that these symptoms are the ones that would trigger isolation and booking a PCR test, you may also want to be mindful that **headaches, runny noses and sore throats** may also be symptoms of concern. It is important to act immediately if your child has any symptoms by self-isolating for 10 days and to book a PCR test ([gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)). We hope that by sharing this local knowledge with you, we may be able to work together to avoid any in school transmission.

Keeping our children and families, staff and local community safe is our priority. If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, please do email office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk and we will do our best to answer any questions as promptly as we can.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Bannon
Associate Principal