



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all managed to relax over the half term despite the stormy weather. Pupils have returned this week with a very positive attitude and we are pleased to see that the high standards of uniform have been maintained. I must express my gratitude to every parent and thank you for the support you offer the school.

Many of you will be aware that the Prime Minister gave an [oral statement](#) in Parliament outlining the next phase of the Government's COVID-19 response last week. New guidance on Living with Covid is available [here](#), and updated guidance has been published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) [here](#).

As a result of these updates, we have updated our risk assessments and reviewed our processes; there are still cases of COVID-19 in our community and while this is prevalent we ask that you continue to be vigilant. We will maintain control measures in school, these include:

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

We have made some key changes to our procedures which you need to be aware of:

- **There is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate but until the 1st of April, the government still advises people who test positive to stay at home.** Adults and children who test positive are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **at least five full days** and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative lateral flow test results on consecutive days. **We request that all parents and pupils continue to adhere to this guidance.**
- Fully vaccinated adults and those aged under 18 who are close contacts are **no longer advised to test daily for seven days** and the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate has been removed.
- the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake **twice-weekly asymptomatic testing has now been removed and so this will now stop**

What will we do with remaining test kits:

We will now only be able to order tests if these are needed to respond to local public health advice due to local outbreaks. You should also be able to access test kits from your local pharmacy or online. We will provide each pupil with one test kit on Monday 28th February 2022.

Reporting cases and our recording of attendance

The position on recording school attendance in the register has not changed. We will continue to closely monitor cases in school and so please continue to inform us if your child is experiencing symptoms or has tested positive through the usual channels.





Persistent Absence

The Academy reviews pupils' attendance and punctuality on a regular basis, whether it be authorised or unauthorised absence. If a pupil's attendance falls below 95%, we will start our Tudor Grange Academy Trust attendance interventions. These interventions are intended to support parents/carers and pupils to improve school attendance. Some interventions will be in the form of letters, phone calls and meetings, depending on the level of concern. If these interventions fail and attendance continues to fall, we may have to refer the case to the Local Authority Education Department for them to consider legal action.

Punctuality

Arriving late to school and to lessons is very disruptive for the teacher and other class members. It also means that pupils themselves miss important information from teachers. Morning registration is at **8.30am**. If, for whatever reason, your child will be arriving late please call Student Services/main school office to inform us. A pupil arriving late to school must sign in at Student Services/main school office. If a pupil arrives late without a genuine reason, they will be given a sanction in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour and Discipline policy.

The following table shows the amount of valuable learning time that is missed due to poor school attendance.

Attendance during one year...	...equals days absent.	This is approximately in weeks...	...which means this number of lessons missed.
95%	9 days	2 weeks	45 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	95 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	145 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	190 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	240 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	285 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	335 lessons

The spring term is always one full of hope and optimism as the days eventually become longer and nature bursts into life again. We have been a very strong community throughout the trials of this pandemic and I feel confident that we can navigate this next phase together, using what we have learnt. Please do communicate with us when you need to and thank you for your continued support.

Incrementally we are working towards more of a normality, applying the appropriate care and caution we need to take with any infectious diseases in our community.

Thank you for your continued co-operation, patience and understanding; we really have worked through all the challenges that the pandemic has created, together and with fortitude. I look forward to a positive and productive second half of the spring term.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Bannon
Associate Principal