

CHN/Irr

1 September 2021

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Headteacher: **Mr Chris Norwood B.Ed (Hons) MA**

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid actions from September 2021

It is a pleasure to be welcoming students back to school this term with a more 'normal' provision on offer, including clubs, trips, break times and access to specialist provisions across the school. We have now removed all 'bubbles' with students accessing the whole site. It is a real advantage that students are now able to enjoy more of the full NSfG experience, however we are also mindful that we need to be wise with our Covid measures.

With this in mind I would like to confirm the following;

- Students do not have to wear masks around school or in lessons, however they may choose to do so if they wish.
- We are asking all students to take two 'in-school' tests this week and I would like to thank all students who have already attended. This is really helping our school to start the term on the safest possible basis.
- We will be asking all staff and students to test twice weekly at home from 6 September until the end of this month. More test kits will be sent home.
- If there is a Covid case in school it is now the responsibility of Track and Trace to inform contacts, however we will be working closely with this organisation and liaising with parents as required.
- The guidance has now changed so that in the event of a Covid case in a household it is only that individual who will need to isolate as long as other household members are either under 18 or double vaccinated. This means that students can still attend school if a household member has Covid, however they may be asked by Track and Trace to undertake a PCR test.
- We are still asking students to stay at home and seek a PCR test if they exhibit any of the following Covid symptoms;
 - a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
 - a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
 - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.
- If any student exhibits these symptoms at school, we will be asking parents to collect.
- If any student is positive please inform attendance@nsfg.org.uk or phone 01474 831 020.

Key measures we are using in school to limit cases include;

- Student and staff testing as described above
- Use of hand sanitiser stations around the school
- Enhanced cleaning regimes
- Increased ventilation
- Increased vigilance for any student or staff member with Covid symptoms

A full risk assessment is available in the Covid section of our school website. In addition to this we have an escalation plan should the local case rates rise substantially, this could include re-introducing safety measures in consultation with PHE/DFE.

We would like to thank all parents in advance for working with us on ensuring the right balance between a full school experience and the ongoing management of this Covid situation. We are excited with all the plans for this year and will be doing all we can to ensure they go ahead as safely as possible.

If you have any specific questions or concerns please contact us through info@nsfg.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

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

Mr C Norwood
Headteacher