



31st January, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID outbreak, staffing impact and impact on students, including blended learning

We are currently experiencing high levels of COVID infection across the school, placing us at alert level 2 from the Local Authority planning guidance.

Since the beginning of January, around 30% (just under a third) of our students have contracted COVID as have a fifth (20%) of the staff Learning Team. This shows that COVID is still having a significant impact and as such, I am recommending that we continue with the current requirements in our January COVID Risk Assessment.

So far, we have been able to cover the absences of the learning support team through supply cover and redeployment of staff. However, there is no availability of teaching supply within the local area, so teaching absence, and significant increases in support staff absence, will have an impact on our ability to keep classes open. In the event of known staffing shortages, there will be a rota of classes on our blended learning offer. This decision is in place for one class already this week.

I will do my best to plan groups for remote learning rather than make decisions on the morning of changes. However, there will be times when I need to move a class to remote learning on the day, for which I apologise.

Please encourage your child to take part in regular lateral flow testing and to take sensible precautions to reduce the risk of transmission.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Jane Reason
Headteacher