

# The Sir John Colfox Academy



**Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence**

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5 January 2022

Dear Parents

Firstly, Happy New Year and I hope this one will be smoother than the last one.

As you will have seen in the press, the Government have updated information on how schools will operate when the students return and I wanted to update you on the changes at Colfox.

From Thursday 6 January until at least the next review on the 26 January, face coverings will be compulsory in classrooms as well as communal areas for all students, apart from those who are exempt. We have a small supply of these but would encourage students to bring in their own. We will be encouraging all students to be outside as much as possible at break and lunch time to give them some mask-off time. They will of course be able to remove their masks when eating in the canteen.

We will be encouraging all classrooms to have as much ventilation as possible. Students should also use the hand sanitiser stations around the school and in particular when they enter and exit the building.

At wet lunch/break time, we will move to student zones. This is to avoid mixing between year groups inside as much as possible.

We are encouraging everyone to please continue with the twice weekly voluntary Lateral Flow Testing to help protect our school and our wider community. Please could all students take one before they come back to school on Thursday to try to catch any asymptomatic cases. Thank you for your ongoing support.

We will be doing our assisted testing for all students who have consented over the first two days. If your child tests positive then we will isolate them and ask you to come and get them and take them for a PCR test. I would like to thank our team of volunteers who make this possible.

The self-isolation period for those who test positive has changed. Although 10 days will be given to you from track and trace after a positive PCR test, it is possible, if your child is feeling better, for them to return on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. This is done by taking a LFT on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> day 24hrs apart. If these are both negative then your child can return immediately. I enclose a flow chart, which will explain this in a clear format. During the isolation period, work will be set on Teams for your child to do if they are well enough.

Last term we had 48% of our students off at some point with Covid as well as many members of staff, but we were able to continue without sending students home to do home learning. This has meant that

although student learning has been disrupted, we have fared better than some schools. I fear that although we will do everything we can to avoid sending students in particular year groups home we might have to as we know that Omicron spreads much faster than the previous Delta variant so the figures from last term are bound to increase. We have a robust home learning plan that will allow students to still access the work and have contact with their teachers, but we know that this will never be as good as students being in school. For those who have children in Y11 and 13 we are awaiting more information about any changes to the exam system this year. At the moment all the planned mock exams will go ahead as these are a crucial measure of their progress and might be used as evidence. Let us hope I am being over pessimistic and that we can work together to prevent the spread in Colfox. I will of course keep you informed of any additional measures that are needed as we move into the next phase of this pandemic.

Thank you for all your support while we navigate this together to ensure that our students get the best education and school experience they can.

Yours sincerely



Adam Shelley  
Headteacher

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**Quick list:**

- 1) Face mask compulsory for all except those exempt in classrooms as well as communal areas – Government will review this on Wednesday 26 January 2021**
- 2) Wet lunch times – Year groups in zones**
- 3) Isolation period after positive PCR reduced to 7 days IF negative LFT on day 6 and 7**
- 4) Twice weekly voluntary LFT for students – suggested days Wednesday and Sunday**
- 5) Use hand sanitiser stations when leaving and entering the building**