

# ParentMail Communication dated 31 March 2022

## Important Changes to "Living With Covid"

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As part of the government's "Living With Covid" plan, a number of changes come into force from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022:

- General free testing ends – only people at risk of serious illness from Covid-19, meeting certain criteria will continue to receive free tests
- The school will not receive and not be able to supply any further lateral flow tests to its staff or students

Therefore, students should manage Covid-19 like any other respiratory infection. This means that:

- If they have a high temperature or feel unwell, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people
- If their temperature falls or they no longer feel unwell, they should go to school as normal

We will continue to recognise:

- The importance of ventilation
- The importance of good hygiene
- The good sense in wearing face coverings in busy, enclosed spaces – anyone who wishes to wear one is welcome to do so

In short this means that our students should be in school even more often!

The school will be refocusing on good attendance after the Easter break. We strive for every student to have 100% attendance, simply because those who achieve it do much better at school and beyond. An additional member of staff, Mrs Smith, will take up the new post of Director of Attendance. She will work alongside our Attendance Officer, Mrs Whitbread.

Whilst attending school is required in law, we will have much more capacity to support families and work together to remove the obstacles that affect school attendance. We will be looking to build further trust and goodwill with our families. The school is only here in the first place because of our students, and we want them in school, learning and preparing for success in life. As such, we will be seeking to emphasise the positive side of good attendance to school, and we will celebrate not just good attendance, but also improving attendance.

The school community has been on quite a journey to reach this point. I thank everyone for their resilience and commitment in the last two years.

With best wishes

**Mr Andrew McGinnes**

Headteacher