

22 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Ending of Legal COVID-19 Restrictions

My first letter about COVID-19 was nearly two years ago (26 February 2020) when the threat from the virus was being described as a "low" risk to individuals in the UK, and when there had only been 13 reported cases countrywide. Since then, we have seen the alarming spread of the virus and many of our community have also had to endure real upset as relatives have become very ill, with some loss of life.

Yesterday, the government announced the ending of legal restrictions from this coming Thursday as part of their plan to live with COVID. I am sure that we all hope that the timing of this move proves to be wise and that we can indeed learn to cope with normal life in a safe and secure manner. What is also clear from the government scientists is that COVID remains a potential threat - especially for vulnerable individuals, for the unvaccinated, and if a new variant emerges.

Face Coverings

In school, face coverings are voluntary from the start of this half-term, and this will remain the case, certainly until the Easter break.

Twice-Weekly Testing

From today, there is no requirement for students to undertake asymptomatic testing. I would recommend that the test kits are kept as these can be used if your son/daughter/ward develops COVID symptoms. We can provide limited additional test kits for student use in these circumstances.

Infection Control & Isolation

Preventing the spread of this virus remains important. So, please take note of the guidance which comes into place from this Thursday, 24 February.

If your child develops COVID symptoms, they should still take a lateral flow test if possible.

- **If the test is POSITIVE** - the advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to isolate until 2 negative test results on consecutive days have been undertaken, or 10 days have passed, whichever is earlier.
- **If the test is NEGATIVE** - decide about whether or not your child is well enough to attend school, as you would do with any normal seasonal illness.

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In addition, please ensure that your son/daughter/ward:

- always carry tissues and use them for coughs or sneezes; and
- washes or sanitises hands frequently through the day and certainly before and after eating and after using the toilet.

Vaccinations

The vaccination programme remains in place and this becomes the main defence to further outbreaks of this virus. The clear evidence - from over 10 billion vaccinations worldwide - is that those who are vaccinated are best protected from the worst effects of the virus and they are also far less likely to infect others.

Our students (aged 12 or over) will have the opportunity to be vaccinated on 1 March as long as the consent form has been completed and given in to reception. This needs to be done before the end of this week. The consent form can be accessed [here](#).

As always, please do continue to monitor our [school website](#) and follow our social media ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).

In case you have missed it, we have also recently launched our new [weekly newsletter](#), The Isleworthian, which will be emailed to you directly every Friday during term-time.

I wish all members of the school community well.

Yours faithfully,



Euan Ferguson
Headteacher

