



## SIR TOM FINNEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Ribbleton Hall Drive, Preston, PR2 6EE

Telephone No 01772 795749

Headteacher Mr Shaun Jukes PGCE, BPhil (special education)

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11.01.2022

Dear Parents/Carers and Guardians

I am writing to update everyone on the current situation in school in relation to levels of Coronavirus and the contingency actions and arrangements.

Like almost all schools, since our return after the holidays, we have seen a steady rise in positive cases both amongst staff and students. Most are completely unrelated, however in line with guidance and some cases being in the same department area or class group we have initiated our contingency arrangements and departments are operating as 'bubbles' to minimise the mixing and movement of students and staff as much as possible within reason and balance, without compromising the quality of teaching and learning and personal, social and emotional care.

In practise this means:

- Delivering as much as the curriculum as possible within each dept area - if specialist rooms must be used all the procedures for maintaining hygiene, clean down etc are followed with increased vigilance.
- Lunchtime will continue as they are but emphasize the minimising of mixing at crossover times. Breaktimes will be departmental and avoid crossover times
- Staff are requested to avoid using communal areas and use their own classrooms to take their breaks/lunches.
- In general, no off-site activity/visits/options will take place, to be reviewed at end of January in line with Govt review of data/restrictions more widely. (Exceptions may be made for some specific individual student learning).
- No unnecessary or infrequent visitors - other than health and service professionals, contractors, and maintenance professionals or for exceptional circumstances.
- Meetings where possible will take place virtually.
- Continue with the 'send-home' policy if any symptoms are evident including high temperature/new persistent cough/loss of taste or smell; and any combination of symptoms such as cold-like runny nose, tickly throat, headache, fatigue - which are being seen commonly now with the new variant. Those with symptoms will be requested to undertake a PCR test, informing school of the result.
- Adults will wear face coverings in all communal areas and students will also be allowed to do the same should they so wish, including in classrooms, (please note our young people by the very nature of the learning needs/disability do come under the exemption rule, so do not have to wear a face covering if they wish not to or are not able to.)
- Twice weekly and reporting of Lateral Flow Device testing is paramount and actively encouraged/recommended for all staff and students.
- Anyone identified as a close contact to a positive case will be recommended to lateral flow test daily for 7 days - additional test kit boxes are available from the office



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- Should positive cases continue to impact on the school the next stage in the contingency measures will be a return to individual group 'bubbles' and all teaching and learning will take place through the pastoral teacher and pastoral staff to further limit mixing and movement.
- Whilst consideration of partial or full closures of groups and a move to remote learning will be a last resort, if staff absence rates reach a critical level, school will have no choice but to use this as an option on the grounds of maintaining Health and Safety.

I hope everyone can appreciate these arrangements are in place to maintain routine, structure, and a sense of normality and consider the safety and well-being of both students and staff in school in a reasonable and proportionate way. The UKHSA have confirmed with school that all the measures above are in line with current guidance and are appropriate.

Further to the above since today, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022, for a time limited period, the government have announced that anyone testing positive on a Lateral Flow Device test should self-isolate in line with guidance and do not need a confirmatory PCR test. However, anyone showing symptoms, but still testing negative on a Lateral Flow Device test, should still book and take a PCR test.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone, for your help, support and understanding about the measures that are in place. Our hope is that this will be for as short a time as possible and in line with any national review of guidance and advice so that we can return fully to our standard practise.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shaun Jukes'.

Shaun Jukes  
Headteacher