



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

1 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important Update about COVID 19: face coverings and testing

Today I have spoken to senior colleagues in our Red Kite Learning Trust and have been in contact with NYCC PHE to review the measures we put in place two weeks ago and about the number of positive cases of COVID-19 currently within the school community. Under the 'contingency framework', a threshold is met when five students, likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a ten-day period. Unfortunately, whilst case rates have dropped below this threshold in Year 7, they have now met this threshold in Year 8, 9, 10 and 11. In discussion with NYCC PHE, the following measures have been put in place.

A) Face coverings

1. From Monday 4 October until 3.30pm on Friday 15 October, it will remain **compulsory** for students in Years 7 – 11 and staff to wear face coverings in communal areas whilst:
 - entering school and leaving the building
 - during transition between lessons
 - during transition to and from year group communal spaces at break and lunch.
2. Students in the Sixth Form study in a separate area of the school and are **not** required to wear face coverings for this period. If, however, they enter the main school communal areas, it is **compulsory** for them to wear a face covering as above.
3. Due to the threshold being met in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11, from Monday 4 October until 3.30pm on Friday 15 October, it will be **compulsory** for students in these year groups to wear face coverings in classrooms.

We recommend that your child brings at least one spare face covering each day. For the benefit of the environment and due to the cost of disposable face coverings, we recommend reusable options.

We ask that you contact the relevant Year Manager if your child is exempt from wearing a face covering. Where parents have previously informed us about this, there is no need to do so again.

B) Twice weekly testing

We strongly encourage all students to test themselves using Lateral Flow Devices, twice weekly at home. The Operational Guidance for schools was updated this week, confirming that students should continue to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3 to 4 days apart.

On the day of the test, please report the results to the NHS Test and Trace website and to school.

- NHS Test and Trace website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- School: <https://forms.office.com/r/Ew9aTzCLkU>

If a positive result, please email HGSCovidresult@hgs.rklt.co.uk and book a confirmatory PCR test. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, your child should not attend school and self-isolate. We ask that you confirm the results of the PCR test via the email above, whether the result is positive or negative.

We continue to monitor the case rates in school and work closely with NYCC PHE. I would like to thank you for your support and assure you that we will continue to keep you informed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Renton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Neil Renton
Headteacher