



Heathcote School & Science College

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Headteacher: Emma Hillman NPQH, MSc, MA

Dear Parent/Carer,



I hope that you and your families are well and had a restful weekend.



In the light of recent news about the rising number of cases in Waltham Forest, and the number of cases in secondary schools, pupils will need to wear face masks inside the classrooms as well as in communal areas from tomorrow. Pupils should continue to bring at least two clean masks to school every day, unless they have a pink exemption lanyard, which they must wear. We want to do everything we can to avoid a third lockdown or a return to remote learning, which one secondary school has had to revert to temporarily today.



I also want to remind you about the need for your child to continue to take and register lateral flow tests twice per week. This is particularly important as a third of people with COVID do not display any symptoms.



In addition, please do not to send your child to school if they display any of the classic COVID19 symptoms:



- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal



You should also be aware of the Delta variant symptoms, which are similar to coughs and colds and we have been advised by the LA that pupils should stay at home if they have cold symptoms until they have a negative PCR test. As you know, we have very high attendance expectations here and so this is not a message we would give out to parents and carers if we felt there was a viable alternative at the moment. Please see the link below.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-57467051>



If you are in any doubt, ensure that your child takes a PCR test and remains at home until you receive the result.



We will also have to reconsider some events and activities in school and will not be able to make significant changes to the school arrangements for now – that means timetables, lessons, lunches etc will need to remain the same and it is unlikely that trips will be able to take place between now and the end of term. We still hope to run Sports Day in some format. This is so disappointing but hopefully taking action now will mean that we are able to return to normal in September.



Transition Day for the new Year 7s will also need to take place virtually.

We are very grateful for the patience and support parents have shown for the school through this extremely difficult period.

Yours sincerely



Emma Hillman