

20 January 2021

Dear Parents Carers

I trust that you are all safe and well as we work through this latest lockdown period.

I wanted to touch base with you now we have been back to school a few weeks. Firstly, I want to thank you for your patience, support and flexibility as we have ensured provision is in place for all of our students who want/need it.

As you will have seen on the news, as a Special School we are open and we do have students in School every day. To reassure you, I wanted to let you know what we have done to make our School environment safer.

- We have reduced the number of people in each classroom.
- We have continued to work in learning bubbles with the same students and staff.
- We have provided PPE for staff to use and asked staff to wear a mask or face covering when they leave their bubble.
- We have also set up the lateral flow testing for all staff and students in Year 7 and above (this is only available for students and staff who can self-administer the test and whether we have consent).

I wanted to share some information about the testing for you. We are testing weekly, the test is designed to pick up someone who is asymptomatic. If someone tests positively by this lateral flow test, they will need to be collected immediately and will have to have a PCR test at one of the main testing centres to confirm the presence of COVID.

If someone does test positive, we will report this to Public Health who will carry out a risk assessment with the School. It is likely that close contacts of the person testing positive will be required to self-isolate for 10 days and everyone in the immediate household of the person who tested positive will also require to self-isolate for 10 days. We will inform you of relevant actions if and when we have a positive test in School.

Please can I also ask that if your child displays any symptoms:

- New, continuous cough
- Temperature
- Loss or change of taste and smell

you keep them home and arrange a PCR test wherever possible.

We continue to work hard in school with regular hand washing and staff continually teach students about social distancing.

For those of you who are eligible for Free School Meals, vouchers will be provided for the days they are not at School and these will be emailed to you every two weeks during term time.

Home learning packs should have been delivered to you either via links in an email or delivered resources to your door. Please try to encourage your child to engage in the learning provided, we understand that some of our students find 'home learning' difficult, your child's class teacher will help you to find creative ways to engage your child in practical activities. If you have concerns about the home learning which has been sent home, please contact the School so we can rectify this quickly.

Please don't forget to share your photos and any work with your class teacher, we love to see these and celebrate your child's achievements.

Finally, I wanted to remind all families, we are here to support you, if you need help, need to talk, need support of any kind, please do let us know so we can signpost you to the right service or our PFSA will be happy to make contact with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. Farnell".

Helen Farnell  
Executive Head Teacher