



27th September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers

I am writing to advise you that the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 at St Nicholas now meets thresholds set by the Government and requires us to inform the Department for Education, to introduce some temporary, additional measures to reduce the risk of transmission, and to seek support and advice as necessary.

As a result of discussions with our local Health Protection Team, St Nicholas will be implementing the following mitigations from tomorrow, Tuesday 28th September:

On Site Testing

We will be offering an additional two on site LFD tests to all students over the coming days and we will confirm specific dates with you once resourcing and personnel have been confirmed.

Testing is voluntary and we would encourage as many students as possible to participate with two tests being taken 3-5 days apart. We will be using the existing testing consent information that you have previously provided to school – if there are any changes to this information, please contact us via covidtesting@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk

Additionally, current guidance states that anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19. Once again, please contact us via covidtesting@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk to advise us of this.

Face coverings

It is now recommended that face coverings are worn in communal areas at St Nicholas. These circumstances include moving around the school site in between lessons, outside of classrooms, in corridors and other communal areas such as the Library, the Assembly Hall and the Sixth Form Common Room.

Students are not required to wear face coverings in their classrooms, but they may choose to do so if they wish.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. Those students previously designated exempt from wearing a face covering will not need to wear one. Further details on exemption can be found [here](#). Should you wish to discuss exemption for your child, please contact their Year Leader in school via the usual channels of communication.



Co-Curricular & Enrichment activities

These activities will continue and face coverings are recommended where more than one year group is participating at any one time.

These additional mitigations have been discussed and agreed with the Cheshire West and Chester Health Protection Team and will remain in place until Tuesday 12th October, when they will be reviewed.

Parents' and Carers' Evenings

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent consultation. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly in favour of retaining a virtual model for this academic year- with 81% of responses either in favour of a virtual appointment or happy with a virtual or on site approach.

Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds

A number of parents and carers have contacted us regarding the Government's decision to offer all students aged 12 to 15 in England one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from the 4 UK Chief Medical Officers.

I can confirm that all secondary schools across Cheshire West are hosting voluntary vaccination opportunities over the coming weeks, and I will confirm arrangements for St Nicholas with you once the school has received further details from the NHS Childhood Vaccines Team.

As always, if you have any questions regarding any matters contained within this letter please do contact us at school and thank you for the continued support you offer to the St Nicholas community.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher

