



BRIGANTIA
LEARNING TRUST

Creating excellence together

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2 March 2022

Dear Parents/carers

Covid-19 Update: Living with Covid-19

Following the Government's announcement on the ending of all Covid restrictions in England, we have been considering the implications for us as a trust and for our academies. In doing so, we are, as ever, following the advice and guidance of the Department for Education (DfE) and the NHS.

Whilst the Government's announcement is clear that Covid remains present in society, it does bring an end to the series of legal and advisory measures that have been in place in academies over the last two years. I would like to thank everyone in the trust and academies - students, parents, staff and visitors - for following the laws and the guidance so that we have been able to minimise the risk of transmitting the virus within the school.

Our priority remains the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our trust community, however, I would hope that we would all continue to act sensibly and considerately in the interests of everyone's health. Secondary and Post 16 aged students are now no longer expected to test twice a week but, if they do develop symptoms associated with Covid-19 I would urge you to continue to test them for the virus. Tests will be free of charge until 1 April so do request them from the NHS or your pharmacist if you need them.

If your child does test positive for Covid-19, I would ask that they continue to self-isolate for at least five days and only return to school after having two negative lateral flow tests on consecutive days. Whilst doing so is no longer the law, it is very sensible practice and helps us minimise the risk of Covid-19 spreading in the academies. If we are all careful and considerate, we can, I hope, minimise the risk of the virus circulating amongst us. If your child does test positive and will be absent, please contact your child's academy in the normal way when reporting absence. Please note that online learning is only available for students absent with a positive test and who would otherwise be well enough to attend.

Children and young people remain eligible for a vaccination against Covid-19. If your child has not already had theirs, they are available via the NHS and further details on where they are available locally are <https://www.nhs.uk>. We are all hopeful that we are now coming to the end of the pandemic, but this is by no means a certainty and, as new variants occur, we may be required to reintroduce some or all of the measures we have lived with over the past two years. As a trust, we will be continuing to keep our risk assessments and plans updated so that we are always prepared for anything that needs to be reintroduced at short notice.

Yours faithfully

Mike Westerdale
CEO

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