



1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Headteacher's Letter 3**

It is more than three weeks since I wrote to you about the level of COVID infections within the school. We have returned from the half term break to find a situation which, although not yet alarming, is significantly worse. We learned of 47 new cases during the week of half term and a further 11 were reported today.

This does not take us to the point where we are recognised as an outbreak site, but there is no escaping the fact that the high school is edging close to it.

In an effort to check the continuing increase in our case numbers, we are re-introducing several of the measures which were in use not so very long ago. These include cancelling house assemblies in order to reduce mixing of different year groups, directing the students outside for a greater part of break and lunchtime so long as the weather is at all suitable, re-emphasising the importance of good ventilation and expecting staff to maintain 2 metre distance from their classes where that is at all possible.

In addition, we are enlisting the help of parents, asking them to be alert for any symptoms if COVID among their children. The importance of frequent testing also has to be re-emphasised.

A further measure could be the wearing of face coverings in lessons and in indoor spaces. At present I am holding that in reserve, but if the situation does deteriorate further face coverings for students may once again become necessary.

Meanwhile work in the classroom continues. That is the activity which I am most anxious to protect

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Waters