



Blackminster Middle School

School Bulletin

Dear parents and carers,

After the Prime Minister's announcement about the planned easing of COVID restrictions, I have a few updates to share with you.

COVID testing

Thank you to all parents and carers and Key Stage 3 students who are testing twice-weekly for COVID-19 in order to identify asymptomatic cases and prevent the spread of the virus. Regular testing and reporting of results is helping to drive cases down, and keep everyone safer. I'd also encourage parents and carers of children in all years to consider testing themselves too – test kits can be obtained for free. More information is available from <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Masks in school

From next Monday, the Government are no longer expecting students in any age group to wear masks in school. Adults in school are still encouraged to wear them in communal areas, but no longer in classrooms.

I do need to stress that this may be reversed if the case rate rises significantly, but I very much hope not.

Masks on school transport

The expectations around mask-wearing on public transport and school buses have not changed.

Other safety measures in school

Other measures that we are taking in school (distancing where possible, forward-facing desks in classrooms, separate "bubbles" for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 students) will continue for the moment. I will keep you updated when there are any changes.

Executive Headteacher Appointment

I'm delighted to be able to tell parents and carers that the Governors have appointed me to the role of Executive Headteacher on a permanent basis. I've been in an Acting capacity since September, so I'm looking forward to continuing to work with staff and families to get the best possible outcomes for all of our young people.

Kind regards,

Linda McQuone

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda McQuone'. The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and a small circle at the end.

Executive Headteacher