



BLACKMINSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Executive Headteacher: Ms Linda McQuone BSc(Hons), MA(Ed), PGCE, NPQH, MCCT

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September 16th 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I'm sorry to have to inform you that we have had a few cases of COVID-19 amongst our school community. As restrictions have been eased nationally, infection rates have risen and we're seeing this reflected at school. However, I am keen to ensure that school is as safe as possible and does not contribute to the spread of the virus. As from **Friday 17th September** we will therefore be re-introducing the following measures.

- Staff and students in all year groups will be asked to wear a face covering in corridors and communal areas of the school unless they are exempt.
- We'll be showing the WHO advisory film about safe wearing of masks in school, and we'd appreciate it if you could also watch this at home. The link is https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk
- We'd like children to wear their PE kits to school, rather than formal uniform, on days that they have PE. This is to minimize possible crowding in changing rooms.
- Please be aware that breaktimes and PE lessons will be outside whenever possible, so students need to be suitably dressed for cold or rain.
- Windows and doors will be open around school, so children may well need to wear a school jumper as well as their blazer if they feel the cold.
- We'll be asking students to sanitise their hands on entry to each classroom. We will provide suitable sanitiser, but if you'd like your child to use their own this is perfectly acceptable.

I'd also like to encourage students in all year groups to undertake lateral flow tests twice-weekly. **Year 7 and 8** students have been doing this for some time, and now I'd like to extend this to students in **Year 6**. No-one is under any obligation to carry out the tests, but they are a valuable contribution to keeping everyone safe and we really appreciate your support. Parents of **Year 6** students will be receiving a separate email regarding this.

Latest advice from the government <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

I'd like to thank parents and carers in advance for your support for the school and for students at this time.

Kind regards,

Linda McQuone

Executive Headteacher

