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13 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Mask wearing in school

As you may know, we have recently had some Covid cases in the school, among both students and staff, as well as having significant numbers of students having to self-isolate. As a result, NYCC Public Health and Public Health England currently advise that face coverings should be worn in school (in communal areas and classrooms) by staff and students until the end of term. Therefore can I ask that your son/daughter comes into school each day with a mask for the rest of this week and next?

Although there is no reason to be concerned about the positive cases, I would like to remind everyone that testing is hugely important. Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is therefore important to ensure each Covid-19 case is found as quickly and easily as possible. Reducing the spread of the virus is key to avoiding a potential return of tough restrictions and school closures.

All students are strongly advised to continue with twice-weekly LFD testing at home and to report their results to school. We ask our students to test on a Sunday and on a Wednesday if possible. LFD tests are very accurate at picking up positive cases. If you test positive on a lateral flow test, it is likely that you are infectious at that moment. By using the lateral flow test we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further.

If you test positive on a LFD test, you need to self-isolate immediately and arrange a PCR test to confirm the result (you can book a test here: [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)). You need to report the positive test to the school as soon as possible so that we can trace close contacts and ask them to isolate.

LFD tests should be used when someone does not have symptoms (is asymptomatic). If anyone in a household is feeling unwell, the whole household must self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test.

Please remember that, in the event of a positive test, any close contacts students may have had outside of school must be reported to the NHS Test and Trace service. The school is neither responsible nor able to do contact tracing outside of school.

Support to isolate

We realise having to isolate following a positive test result for you or your child can affect your work and your income. If you need support, please contact North Yorkshire County Council to discuss your options (contact details below).

If you're self-isolating you may need help with things like shopping, collecting a prescription or looking after pets. If you can, please contact family, friends or neighbours and let them know how they can help you. Try to get in touch by phone or using email or other ways that avoid physical contact. If you

don't have anybody to call on, we have a community support organisation in your area who can help so you don't need to leave your house. For more information on our community support organisations visit: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19> or call our Customer Support Centre on 01609 780780.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Norden

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Norden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Principal,
Caedmon College