

22nd June, 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

### **Parental update 64**

As I'm sure you'll appreciate, it's been a busy 72 hours in the life of our school! For now, there are three things I need to pass on to you.

#### **In, out, in, out...**

As you may be aware, the rules we have to follow are pretty tightly defined. The Government's 'Operational Guidance' states: "*Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if [they] have been in close contact with someone who tests positive*" – and this includes a Lateral Flow Test ('LFT'); however a subsequent Polymerase Chain Reaction ('PCR') test can override a previous LFT. This can mean that we need to ask students to self-isolate in the first instance, then to stop self-isolating, and then to start again if another positive test comes in – and I appreciate the frequent changes of direction can be difficult for families. I'm sorry about that, but as I'm sure you understand, we have to follow the rules!

#### **Assessments**

A number of parents have asked us whether the current round of self-isolations will affect the students' upcoming Assessments. The principle we will be following is this: if a student misses an Assessment for any reason (absence, self-isolation *etc*), they will be asked to take the Assessment at the *next available opportunity* – *ie* when they are next physically present at a lesson in the subject concerned. No Assessments will take place online. We will take steps to ensure the integrity of the assessment process, so it is possible that a student who takes an Assessment after his/er peers may take a slightly different version of the same Assessment.

#### **Testing, testing...**

Finally, probably the most important message: **please keep testing your son/daughter** using the LFT kits that are available from school (and elsewhere). Testing helps keep us all safe by giving us early warning of an outbreak in the school community. It's also helpful if you can upload your results onto the NHS website, but even if you don't wish to do this, **please keep testing**.

The number of positive test outcomes we have heard about today is down on yesterday's total; hopefully this trend will continue. I'll update you with some figures and further news as usual on Friday.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley  
Principal.