



**Head of School:**

Mrs N. Teece, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE, SLE  
nteece@mowbrayeducation.org

**Executive Headteacher:**

Mrs C. Stansfield, BA, MA, PGCE, NPQH  
cstansfield@mowbrayeducation.org

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

**Outbreak Information Letter for John Ferneley College – Advice to Parents/Guardians**

Dear Parents / Guardians,

**We have been made aware that a small outbreak of students have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10-day period, primarily found across Year 8.**

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England and the schools' Local Health Protection team, daily, to monitor figures across the school community.

This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child/ren, as well as further controls we will be supporting and encouraging over the next 14-day period in school, to help reduce transmission across our school community.

**Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

**Home testing – twice weekly remains**

Please can we remind you as parents/guardians that **home testing twice weekly remains important** in reducing the risk of transmission of infection between staff and students. That is why, whilst many measures nationally are relaxed, if necessary, in response to the latest data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down depending on our local circumstances.

**Help us to reduce the risk of transmission**

To help reduce the risk of transmission, and keep our school community as safe as possible during these times, we are being advised to implement and encourage the following measures, recommended to us by our Local Health Protection Team, and would encourage your support as parents/guardians:

- **Encourage use of face coverings in communal areas (not mandatory)** – we are strongly advising any students and staff to don a face covering in and around our communal areas of the school site. This will be kept in review, in line with any outbreaks / daily / weekly case figures.
- **Assemblies (held remotely)** – our daily year group assemblies will move remotely during this 14-week period. This will be kept in review, in line with any outbreaks / daily / weekly case figures.
- **Trips and visits to implement covid control measures** – we are very aware that we have a number of school trips and visits taking place over the next few weeks on the lead up to Christmas. Please be aware that all our trip risk assessments will continue to implement covid control measures, to help reduce the risk of transmission, i.e *face coverings while travelling, year group bubbles*. We will communicate any specific measures to you directly, alongside individual trip communications.
- **Visitors to the school (appointment only)** – as always, all visits to the school must be made by appointment only. Where possible, we will be strongly encouraging parent/guardian meetings to be held remotely, as well as an increased use of phone call appointments.
- **Heightened sanitisation** - alongside the schools daily covid cleaning regime, our contractors continue to heighten the cleaning of general surfaces to help reduce the risk of contact.

Please see overleaf.....

- **Ventilation across the school** – we continue to keep our indoor spaces well ventilated. As we enter the colder weather, students will be allowed to wear coats where the rooms are affected by windows being open. This will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher.
- **Parent/guardian events (on-site)** – in line with advice from Public Health England, we will be keep all live events on site, in review. Should we need to cancel / reschedule these events, we shall inform you via email.

### **TAKING PRECAUTIONS THIS AUTUMN / WINTER**

Like us, I am sure you are keen that your child/ren remain in school this academic year and we want to remind you of the ways you can help this happen. There are many precautionary measures your child/ren can do to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus:

- wash your hands with soap and water often, and utilise the hand sanitiser stations in and around school
- Wear a face mask in communal areas of the school site
- when you leave your home, always wash your hands when you return
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

### **Household contact – daily lateral flow testing**

If your child has been identified as a **household contact** of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, Leicestershire County Council and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) request that you perform the following:

- As an additional measure, your child/ren should take **daily lateral flow device tests until the end of the positive case self-isolation period – unless symptoms develop**. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms. Lateral Flow Tests are widely available in local pharmacies or can be ordered from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

**This request applies only to students who have not tested positive within the past 90 days.**

Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms, but are still infectious and can give the virus to others. Anyone in your household can use the tests.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- Remember, it remains a legal requirement that anyone who tests positive or has symptoms of COVID-19 stays at home and gets a PCR test. You can book your PCR test online through the government website here > <https://www.gov.uk/getcoronavirus-test>
- **Reporting a positive case** > [jfcattendance@johnferneley.org](mailto:jfcattendance@johnferneley.org)  
Should your child test positive on a lateral flow or PCR test, please phone the school to report immediately, or email our Attendance Team at [jfcattendance@johnferneley.org](mailto:jfcattendance@johnferneley.org), who will then mark your child as self-isolating, and confirm the return date with you.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Teece  
Head of School  
[nteece@mowbrayeducation.org](mailto:nteece@mowbrayeducation.org)