



St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Head Teacher: Mr. D. Juric
Chair of Governors: Mr. G. Moorhouse

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Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you and students for your efforts to help make the start back to school as smooth and efficient as possible. Students have made a good start this half term, and we know that this is greatly assisted by the support they receive from home. COVID absences aside, thank you for continuing to encourage and insist that your children are in school every day. Good attendance is always vital, but especially this year.

Although procedures are much closer to the norm than they were last year, COVID still remains a very real factor, and so we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the various preventative measures which we urge students to take in order to keep themselves and others safe.

- We stress the importance of good hand hygiene, with regular hand washing and use of the sanitisation points around school.
- Respiratory hygiene, i.e. use of tissues and their safe disposal, remains very important.
- We remind students that they should not come into school if they have symptoms of Covid. If they have symptoms of Covid they should self-isolate and seek a PCR test.
- It is important to continue to test at home twice a week via Lateral Flow Device as part of the asymptomatic testing programme. To report test results, both positive and negative, please follow: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- If students test positive either via LFD or PCR, they should self-isolate, and not come into school. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>. If you receive a positive LFD result, you should seek a confirmatory PCR test within two days.
- Current guidance states that Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, if:
 - they are fully vaccinated
 - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months

However, they should take a PCR test as soon as possible.

- The requirement for a face covering to be worn in school has currently been relaxed. However, students may continue to wear them if they wish. Coverings should still be worn on all school transport.



You will be aware that a Covid vaccination programme has begun to be rolled out to healthy 12-15 year olds in schools. Unfortunately, the Immunisation Service was unable to complete vaccinations for all those students whose parents had provided consent. This issue was repeated across schools in the region. This was also the case with the flu vaccine. Schools are awaiting confirmation about any further delivery of vaccinations in school.

You will have seen in the media news of *walk-in* vaccinations for children. We are also sending alongside this letter a letter to parents from the CEO of the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme North East and North Cumbria which explains how to access a walk-in vaccination for children who are eligible and were unable to receive a vaccination in school.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and cooperation. I wish you all a good half term week.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Juric
Head Teacher

