



29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### **COVID-19 update**

I am writing to make you aware of the challenges we are facing in schools at the moment and to share with you the fast-changing situation here at The Dean Academy. After a relatively quiet start to term we are now starting to see the number of positive cases amongst our students increase week on week. Eight students tested positive over the weekend using a LFD/PCR test and this is in addition to those already at home completing a 10-day period of isolation. We have noticed a dip in attendance which could possibly be COVID related. Put simply, COVID cases are increasing rapidly and we now need to be deliberate in how we react as a community to ensure we avoid a return of restrictive measures, or even possible closures.

We knew this would be inevitable. When we returned to school this September transmission rates in the area were high and students returned to school with fewer restrictions than before. In some cases, however we need to remind ourselves of the basic precautions we have in place:

- Please ensure your child takes a LFD twice weekly (Tuesday and Friday). This is our most effective defence in identifying asymptomatic positive cases. Today when asked, over 130 students indicated they had forgotten to take a test before coming in to school.
- We have sent all students home with further supplies of LFD tests.
- We are now asking for all parents to log the result with the school, purely as a mechanism to ensure that as many tests are taken as possible -  
[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bwmcfx5OQkyVKi6ApblT\\_YYII-k\\_oQBOi1P0Ksv-rpRUOFpBT1kySTFCWE5CQTFLRIkwQzYxN1gzTi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bwmcfx5OQkyVKi6ApblT_YYII-k_oQBOi1P0Ksv-rpRUOFpBT1kySTFCWE5CQTFLRIkwQzYxN1gzTi4u)
- We have reminded students that they can wear a face covering should they wish to and will be making face coverings available for any student, visitor or member of staff should they wish to wear one.

Finally, and most importantly, should your child develop symptoms you must book a PCR test. If your child displays any of the [standard symptoms](#) they should not come in to school but should book a test immediately. At this time, whilst cases are rising, we must ask you to remain vigilant. Please do not take a LFD as a substitute for a PCR as we know they are not totally conclusive.

We all hoped that this academic year would be different and that we could start to return to normal but as cases rise, we must all remain alert to avoid restrictions.

Yours sincerely

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RJB/TW – Covid update-290921

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