



Kieran McGrane - Headteacher

The Crescent Callerton Lane Ponteland Newcastle upon Tyne NE20 9EG

Tel: 01661 824711 E-mail: phs@ponthigh.org.uk Website: www.ponthigh.org.uk Twitter: @PontHigh

1 November 2021

Dear Parent

Additional Covid measures being reintroduced to school

On the last day of the half term (Friday 22 October) all schools in Northumberland received a joint letter from Audrey Kingham (Director of Education and Skills - Northumberland County Council) and Liz Morgan (Interim Executive Director Public Health and Community Services - Northumberland). The letter raised significant concerns about the rising infection rate in Northumberland particularly in the 10-19 age range, which accounts for over a third of all positive cases.

This increase has led to obvious disruption in Northumberland schools as both staff and students have had to self isolate. In response to the local situation, the letter advises all schools to reintroduce some of the Covid measures that had been in place during the summer. Since we returned to school in September we have retained a number of measures including:

- One-way system on floors and stairways
- Staggered lunch time arrangements
- Use of hand sanitiser in classrooms
- Regular cleaning regime throughout the day
- Dedicated indoor social spaces for year groups

In response to the letter from NCC and PHE, we have planned to return to:

- Face coverings in communal areas and when moving from lesson to lesson
 - These will need to be worn in dining streets when not eating
- Suspending year group assemblies
- Moving all information events and parents' evenings online
- Reviewing whether planned trips and visits should proceed

Our intention is that these additional measures will remain in place throughout this half term but we will keep them under constant review and change them if the advice suggests this is appropriate.

I am sure that students (and parents) will be as disappointed as I am that we are reverting to some of these measures, however, it is incumbent on all of us to take personal responsibility to do what we can to keep positive cases as low as possible. To that end, please ensure your child has a face covering when they return to school on Tuesday 2 November and are aware of our expectations. In addition, students should still be taking a LFD test twice each week; additional test kits are available from school.

Y11 Mock exams - to go ahead as planned

Please note that the Y11 Mock exams will go ahead as planned and students already have their individual timetable. In anticipation of a possible change in circumstances we had already planned an



National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Proud to be a
Schools North East
Partner School



exam timetable with half-year groups sitting a paper at a time rather than the full year group; this ensures more space within the exam hall enabling the exams to proceed as planned. Separate arrangements are in place for those students who have access arrangements such as additional time.

We feel it is vitally important that Y11 students do not miss out on the opportunity to sit their exams as preparation for the real thing in the summer term; the exams will also provide valuable feedback on the effectiveness of revision strategies used.

Covid vaccinations for 12-15 year olds

On Friday 22 October, approximately 500 eligible students received a vaccination dose. Please note that if your child did not receive a vaccination dose but you would like them to do so then you should arrange this through the NHS website www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccine

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kieran McGrane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M'.

Kieran McGrane
Headteacher