

LR/PL/4427

02 November 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your children have enjoyed the half term break. As you will be aware from correspondence you received from Mrs Coning, COVID cases at Macmillan rose sharply during the last two weeks of the half term which ultimately resulted in Middlesbrough's Public Health department deploying a mobile testing unit in the academy on 13 and 14 October, which inevitably picked up more asymptomatic cases. To try to reduce the number of cases there are two measures which Public Health have advised us to stress to you; testing and face coverings.

It is vital that your child takes a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) today (Wednesday 3 November 2021) before returning to school tomorrow (Thursday 4 November 2021). A significant number of our cases have been asymptomatic and avoiding students coming into contact with others in the community when they are COVID positive yet show no symptoms is really important. The exception to this is if your child has had COVID in the last 90 days, in which case they should not take a LFT until that 90 day threshold is reached. From Sunday 7 November 2021, we will revert back to the twice weekly testing, which again we would really appreciate your support with.

In addition to testing, Public Health have suggested that we start the term by requesting that the students wear face coverings in communal areas. We expect students to wear a face covering unless they have an 'exemption pass'. When face coverings were introduced into the school in spring we had almost complete compliance, obviously this was a time in which they were widely being used in public places outside of school. When we reintroduced face coverings before October half term there was less willingness from students to wear them, therefore we would really value your support in encouraging this.

Aside from COVID, there is the potential for disruption due to a bus strike. If your child uses a Stagecoach public bus to get either to or from school, there will be disruption to this service over the next term. We understand that the bus service will not run on the following dates: 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 30 November 2021 and 2, 4 December 2021, due to strike action. This will inevitably be very inconvenient as you will have to find alternative means of getting your children to school on these dates.

Finally, from now on we have changed Mrs Coning's title in the academy from Head of School to Headteacher. This seems to be the preferred title used by the Department for Education and will hopefully avoid any confusion. My own role remains unchanged as CEO of Endeavour Academies, a school trust which manages both Macmillan and Archibald Primary School.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support this last half term, despite the inevitable disruption created by both students and staff absences due to COVID, it has been a very productive half term and we are looking forward to welcoming the students back tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,



P Latham

CEO/Accounting Officer

Endeavour Academies