



## Covid-19 Updates 2021/22 - Letter 4

### Newsletters 2021/22: Issue 3

5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break and that you have had an opportunity to see our [online Christmas Celebration](#), which was released on the school website at the end of last term.

At the end of last term we said farewell to Mr Findlay (Head of English), who has been appointed as an Assistant Headteacher at another Worcestershire school, as well as Mr Spence (IT Technician), who has retired after 11 years of service at Prince Henry's. Mr Holmes (Learning Supervisor) has also left to take up a post at a school nearer to his home. I would like to thank them all for their service to Prince Henry's and wish them well for the future. Following Mr Findlay's departure, Mrs Lee and Mr Kitson will be acting as Joint Heads of English and Mr Simpson will be joining the Learning Supervision team.

Rather than writing multiple letters, I would like to provide you with a very quick update in terms of the latest guidance in relation to Covid, as well as my latest newsletter that would normally be issued next Monday. Therefore, below please find the following information:

- COVID updates - face coverings, in-school testing, self-isolation, assemblies, enrichment, exams & extra-curricular activities
- Other updates and reminders:
  - Severe weather
  - Contacting the school
  - Year 9 Options
  - Internet safety
  - Home School Agreement
  - Attendance
  - SCITT
  - Interact
  - Diary Dates

### **COVID UPDATES**

#### **Face Coverings**

I am sure that you will be aware from the media regarding the advice from the Department for Education in terms of face coverings being worn in classrooms:

*"It is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where students in year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support students and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings. We are updating our guidance to reflect this. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26th January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed"*

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**Working in collaboration with Bredon Hill and St Egwin's Middle Schools**

Therefore, students should wear face coverings in school - in both communal areas and classrooms until the national guidance is updated further. Students do not need to wear face masks outdoors and in places where they eat food - ie Henry's and the Sixth Form Common Room.

Arrangements for face coverings on school transport are as they were last term.

### **Testing on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

We have a staggered start this week to allow us to conduct lateral flow testing for all students. As a reminder:

- Tuesday 4th January: Year 11 students return to school & are being tested
- Wednesday 5th January: Years 12 and 13 return to school & are being tested
- Thursday 6th January: Year 10 return to school & are being tested
- Friday 7th January: Year 9 return to school & are being tested

Students who are not physically in school will receive online teaching via Teams in line with their normal timetable and attendance will be monitored in the normal way. Further information on how to access the school's online resources (including Teams) is available alongside this letter in the Covid-19 Updates area of the school website.

When tested, students will be issued with a unique registration card. They should use this on the evening of their test to connect themselves to their result in the NHS Test and Trace system. Their actual result (positive or negative) will already have been registered by the school during the day.

Should your child test positive, the school will contact you to collect them, and you will need to arrange a PCR test. Please can students continue to test at home twice weekly. Lateral Flow Test kits are available at school for your child to take home.

### **Self-Isolation period for those who test positive for COVID 19**

The guidance is now as follows:

*"Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.*

*Health and social care workers, including those working in education settings, should follow guidance for their sector on taking LFD tests on day 8, 9 and 10. For more information, visit [COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings](#).*

*Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#)"*

### **Daily Testing for those with close contacts of COVID 19**

The guidance is now as follows:

*"People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.*

*Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible.*

They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.](#)”

### **COVID-Related Absence**

If your child is absent due to COVID but is well enough to do work, then we would like them to join live Teams lessons or access work on ShowMyHomework. Their teacher will decide which is the most appropriate method to provide work and this will depend upon what they are covering in the curriculum.

### **Assemblies**

Assemblies will take place online until at least January 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sixth Form Enrichment & Guidance**

These sessions will continue in the Henrician Theatre, as they are timetabled lessons. Students should wear face coverings.

### **Examinations**

Any examinations and assessments that have been scheduled for the coming weeks will take place as planned.

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

Any sporting fixtures and extra-curricular clubs will run as normal unless advised.

## **OTHER UPDATES AND REMINDERS**

### **Severe Weather**

With the potential for inclement weather at this time of year, please see the “[Severe Weather and Emergency Closure Routine](#)” page in the Parents & Students area of our website for further information on the procedure in the event of the school having to close due to severe weather.

### **Contacting the School**

I would like to remind parents that all routine enquiries and information about your son or daughter should be conducted through the Form Tutor. For more serious matters please try to contact the relevant Year Head, Deputy Year Head or Assistant Deputy Year Head as listed below:

	<b>Year Head</b>	<b>Deputy Year Head</b>	<b>Assistant Deputy Year Head</b>
<b>Year 9</b>	Mr L Roleston	Mrs S Hall	Miss C Rimell
<b>Year 10</b>	Mr M Thompson	Mrs H Miles	Mr M Cain
<b>Year 11</b>	Mrs S Thorner	Mr T Pilling	Mrs K Birch
<b>Sixth Form</b>	Mrs C Webb	Mr J Martin (Year 12) Mrs J Tozer (Year 13)	
<b>Learning Support</b>	Mrs R Baston, SENDCO		

For the occasional issue that can't be dealt with by the relevant Head of Year or Head of Department, you may also contact members of the school's Senior Leadership Team, whose responsibilities include:

Mr B Freeman, Snr Deputy Head	: Pastoral issues, Safeguarding
Mrs A Lungley, Deputy Head	: Curriculum, Teaching & Learning, Reports, Data & Assessment
Mrs S Thomas Deputy Head	: School Transport & Timetable
Mrs N Barker, Deputy Head	: Alternative Provision, Press Officer
Mr A Duffy, Assistant Head	: Teacher Training Programmes
Mrs C Webb, Assistant Head	: Sixth Form, Careers & Enterprise
Mr A Hulse, Operations Manager	: Site Management, Data Protection Officer
Mr P Barrington, Finance Manager	: School finance

Please bear in mind that my colleagues have many commitments and that they are not always immediately available to deal with enquiries, although they will do their best to get back to you as soon as possible. **If**

you contact the school to discuss a pastoral matter and your child's Year Head is not available, you will be put through to Mrs Davey who acts as the school's Pastoral Secretary for Years 9-11. She will ensure that your enquiry is passed on to the relevant Head of Year and that it is followed up as soon as possible. Parents who wish to see a teacher are asked to make an appointment in advance.

In case we need to contact you please keep us updated with any change of address and/or telephone numbers and any change to home circumstances. We have a legal responsibility to ensure that the personal data that we hold about you and our students is correct. Updating us with regard to any changes in a timely fashion ensures that you will not miss any important communications from the school.

### **Year 9 Options**

Shortly, Year 9 students will be choosing options to study for GCSE. Just as a guide to parents/carers, the vast majority of students will study a Modern Foreign Language to GCSE. We also recommend that they study a Humanities subject, and our advice is that they keep their curriculum broad and balanced, whilst choosing subjects they enjoy, which could potentially lead them into their chosen future careers.

### **Internet Safety**

The internet is proving invaluable at this time for many children to continue their education and keep in touch with their friends through the many social networking sites. With this in mind, I want to share some important information about support for parents and carers on assisting your child in navigating the internet safely.

There are many organisations providing detailed information on a range of topics in this area such as talking to your child about online safety, the risks of online games, livestreaming and parental controls, sexting and video apps. Unfortunately, whilst the Internet is a fantastic resource it can also be used inappropriately by both adults and other children.

**We are aware that during periods when students may be online more than normal, there are enhanced opportunities for predators to exploit young people via social media and/or the internet. If your child experiences any difficulties whilst using the Internet there are organisations that can offer support.**

**Finally, it is never the child's fault if they encounter abuse online. It is the responsibility of the adult or other child who is acting irresponsibly or breaking the law.**

In the Safeguarding area of our website, we have included contact details for some useful sources of external support for areas such as [family support](#), [mental health and wellbeing](#), and [internet safety](#).

### **Home School Agreement**

Please may I draw your attention to the [Home School Agreement](#), a copy of which is signed by all parents and students when they join Prince Henry's. The Agreement encapsulates the values and ethos that shape the whole Prince Henry's community and summarises the expectations (including school rules) for students, parents and the school itself in order to meet those values.

### **Attendance**

Please remember that if your child is unwell and either unable to attend school or engage in remote learning, our normal absence procedures apply. Please ring the school on **01386 765588 between 8.30 - 9.15 am**. This is in line with government policy to notify parents of unexplained absences and is aimed at safeguarding students.

#### **Dedicated attendance line- message on the answer phone**

Option 1 - Reporting your child's absence in Years 9 -11

Option 2 - Sixth Form issues including reporting absence

Please leave details of your child's name and tutor group and the reason for their absence.

### Prince Henry's and South Worcestershire SCITT (Initial Teacher Training)

Our fifth cohort of 17 trainee teachers with the Prince Henry's SCITT has now completed the first term of training and the trainees are just embarking on their second teaching placement. We are offering a range of courses and applications are now open for Initial Teacher Training courses starting in 2022.

If you are interested in a career in teaching please visit: <http://www.princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk/scitt> or email us at [teachingschool@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:teachingschool@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk)

### PHHS Interact

Interact were able to raise £980 from a non-uniform day. The proceeds will go to this year's chosen charities - WWF and Magic Breakfast. In November, Interact members organised a very successful afternoon of computer and games activities for clients of [Working World](#), who were invited into school. In addition, a vegetable collection was organised to support the Caring Hands Diner in Evesham, and our annual shoebox collection saw 84 shoeboxes being filled with gifts and essentials. At the time of writing, we have a provisional date of 16<sup>th</sup> February for the re-scheduled Drop the Mic event. We will review this in the coming weeks, in line with government guidance and COVID infection rates.

### Diary Dates

Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 12 Parents' Evening - 4.30-7.30pm - online
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 10 Parents' Evening - 4.30-7.30pm - online
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Drop the Mic (Interact event) - <i>provisional date</i>
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>TED Day - School closed to students</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Half-term</b>
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Term re-starts (Week 1)
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 9 Parents' Evening - 4.30-7.30pm - online
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11 Parents' Evening - 4.30-7.30pm - online
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>End of Term for students - 3.30pm</b>
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>TED Day - School closed to students</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter holidays</b>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of term (Week 1)

We look forward to welcoming our students back into Prince Henry's over the coming week.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely



**Dr A Evans**  
**Headteacher**