

COVID-19 Updates 2021/22 – Letter 6

NEWSLETTERS 2021/22: Issue 4

1st March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this latest newsletter finds you and your families safe and well and that you had an enjoyable half-term break. The past few months have been very difficult for everyone, but at last things are returning to some kind of normality, and last week saw the lifting of the remaining restrictions and amended guidance in relation to those testing positive for COVID-19. This means that, since the return to school, live assemblies have resumed in the Henrician Theatre. Students have also received a special online assembly which has focused upon the ongoing shocking events in Ukraine. We appreciate that some of the images being broadcast through the media are very upsetting, and we will continue to support our young people in the troubled world that we find ourselves in.

As I did at the start of term, I would like to provide you with a single letter that offers a quick update in relation to the new guidance, as well as my normal newsletter that would usually be issued at the start of next week. Therefore, please find below the following information:

COVID updates: lifting of restrictions and advice for people who are symptomatic or test positive and for their close contacts; end of routine asymptomatic testing

Other updates and reminders:

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COVID UPDATES

With effect from 24th February 2022, the following government guidance (shown in italics) came into effect:

There is no longer a legal requirement for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection to self-isolate, however if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

The following advice (which also applies to children and young people who usually attend an education setting) is for:

- *People with any of the main symptoms of COVID-19*
- *People who have received a positive COVID-19 lateral flow device (LFD) or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result*
- *People who live in the same household as, or who have had close contact with, someone who has COVID-19*

Know the symptoms of COVID-19

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

- *a new continuous cough*
- *a high temperature*
- *a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)*

If you have any of these symptoms you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result.

There is additional guidance for people who have been informed by the NHS that they are at highest risk of becoming severely unwell and who might be eligible for new COVID-19 treatments.

Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause

If you have COVID-19, stay at home and avoid contact with other people

If you have COVID-19 you can infect other people from 2 days before your symptoms start, and for up to 10 days after. You can pass on the infection to others, even if you have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. If you have COVID-19 you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

You should:

- *Not attend work. If you are unable to work from home, you should talk to your employer about options available to you. You may be eligible for Statutory Sick Pay*
- *Ask friends, family, neighbours or volunteers to get food and other essentials for you*
- *Not invite social visitors into your home, including friends and family*
- *Postpone all non-essential services and repairs that require a home visit*
- *Cancel routine medical and dental appointments. If you are concerned about your health or you have been asked to attend an appointment in person during this time, discuss this with your medical contact and let them know about your symptoms or your test result*
- *If you can, let people who you have been in close contact with know about your positive test result so that they can follow this guidance*



Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. You may choose to take an LFD test from 5 days after your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms) followed by another LFD test the next day. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, the risk that you are still infectious is much lower and you can safely return to your normal routine.

Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

What to do if you are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19

People who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 are at the highest risk of becoming infected because they are most likely to have prolonged close contact. People who stayed overnight in the household of someone with COVID-19 while they were infectious are also at high risk.

If you live with, or have stayed overnight in the household of, someone who has COVID-19, you are advised to:

- Minimise contact with the person who has COVID-19
- Work from home if you are able to do so
- Avoid contact with anyone you know who is at higher risk of becoming severely unwell if they are infected with COVID-19, especially those with a severely weakened immune system
- Limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces
- Wear a well-fitting face covering made with multiple layers or a surgical face mask in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where you are in close contact with other people
- Pay close attention to the main symptoms of COVID-19. If you develop any of these symptoms, order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for your test result

Follow this advice for 10 days after the day the person you live or stayed with symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms).

Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal.

Routine Asymptomatic Testing

There is no longer a requirement for staff and students in mainstream secondary schools to take part in regular asymptomatic (LFD) testing and they should now follow asymptomatic testing advice for the general population. Further information is available in the NHS get tested for COVID-19 guidance.

Therefore, as from 28th February 2022, the school will no longer be issuing LFD testing kits to students and staff.



OTHER UPDATES AND REMINDERS

This term has seen the welcome resumption of inter-school sporting fixtures and planning for school trips. Extra-curricular activities have also resumed, and at the time of writing, many students are working towards their Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award qualification and preparing for the expeditions that are scheduled for the coming months. Many students are also rehearsing for the Drop the Mic event which was postponed earlier in the year and has now been rescheduled to Thursday 7th April.

In January, we launched on [online video and application package](#) for students looking to apply for places in our Sixth Form from September. This was very well received, and Mrs Webb and the Sixth Form team have been delighted by the response.

Our online Parents'/Carers' Evenings have continued to work very well. Year 9 students are currently considering their exam subject options for Year 10, and full information is available on our new online Options Booklet, featuring video clips from our Subject Champions. We are looking forward to meeting their parents/carers, as well as the parents/carers of Year 11 and 13 students at their forthcoming online Parents' Evenings.

Students in Years 13 and 11 will be undertaking internal assessments prior to the Easter break and, as these will play an important part in preparing them for their A Level and GCSE examinations in the Summer Term, please do all you can to encourage them to continue their good study habits and revision. As these assessments will be the first 'normal' public examinations that will have been taken since 2019, we appreciate that many students are concerned by this prospect. We will, of course, be doing everything possible to support and prepare students for these exams, but if your child seems particularly daunted by the challenges facing them, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant member of staff, eg their Form Tutor, Subject Teacher or Head of Year.

Staff Update

At the end of January, we said farewell to Mr Billington, who retired after almost 17 years' service at Prince Henry's. I am sure that you will want to join me in wishing him well for a long and happy retirement.

At the beginning of February, we welcomed Miss Moore back to school as Head of Biology, following her maternity leave.

Year 11 Sixth Form Breakfasts



School Uniform

We are very proud of the school uniform worn by our students in the lower school and Sixth Form. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our students come to school smartly every day. The link here takes you to a page on our website detailing our school uniform requirements. Please be aware of the school rules concerning piercings, hair styles, outdoor coats and electronic devices, particularly as students return to school following the lockdown.

Attendance

Our year to date attendance figure currently stands at 91.3% and compares to 94.7% at the same point last year. Our current Persistent Absence figure, excluding Covid cases, against the government threshold of 10%, stands at 10.4% (compared to 8.1% at the same point last year). These statistics reflect the ongoing impact of the pandemic and, compare very favourably to national attendance rates for secondary schools (which stood at 86.2% on 3rd February). Considerable work is being undertaken by Mrs Barker and the Attendance and Learning Support teams to support students whose attendance has been impacted for a variety of health or other issues. I cannot emphasise enough the fact that good school attendance significantly correlates to success.

Homework

Just as a gentle reminder: I have posted copies of the letters sent home to Year 9, 10 and 11 parents at the start of the academic year regarding homework onto the website in the Parents & Students area. Homework reinforces and develops what is learned in class. It goes without saying that if students adopt good working practices at home this inevitably enhances their overall learning and performance. We encourage all parents to support good attitudes to learning at home. ShowMyHomework is a very useful aid to help parents keep track of the homework that has been set for their children. Students are also expected to record their homework in their school planners and these should be checked and signed on a weekly basis by parents.



School Transport

Whilst Mrs Thomas (Deputy Headteacher) is the point of contact with County Transport in relation to school bus services, please may I remind you that the school is not responsible for transport to and from Prince Henry's. The following is detailed on our website:

"If you have any questions at all you can contact the dedicated team for transport at county on TCLUtransportcommissioning@worcestershire.gov.uk or contact the Hub Service on 01905 765765.

NB Bus routes and times are subject to change from time to time. Worcestershire County Council (and not the school) is responsible for the organisation and efficient running of the school bus service. Parents who have complaints relating to the service eg late arrival etc. should address these to the School Education Transport department at the County Council. Telephone number 01905 765765"

Students Driving or Riding Bikes/Scooters to School

Please could parents/carers remind students who choose to bring bikes or scooters to school to ride them responsibly and be mindful of pedestrians and traffic, especially so in the vicinity of Victoria Avenue at the end of the day. Please remember that Victoria Avenue is a public highway, and not part of the school site and can get very busy with moving traffic.

Similarly, as students in the Sixth Form are now passing their driving tests and bringing their own cars to school, I would like to send out a very important reminder. This is in relation to the speed at which a few of our Sixth Form students are driving down Victoria Avenue. We continue to speak to students in assembly about the importance of safe driving and anybody who is witnessed driving inappropriately will be tackled robustly and, where necessary, we will seek parental involvement.

Finally, the bottom line on this is very simple for me. I do not wish for anybody to be injured, or for the person who is driving to have to live with potentially devastating consequences for the rest of their lives.

With a large volume of traffic coming to and from Prince Henry's every day, we also have our local neighbours to consider and I thank you for your support on this matter.



Parents/Carers Who Bring Their Children to School by Car

Please may I remind you about the issues concerning access to the school site at the start and end of the school day and to ask for your co-operation with this important safeguarding matter.

With 10 school buses dropping children off in the morning and picking them up again in the evening, plus staff and Sixth Form students accessing and leaving the school's car parks, parents using any part of Victoria Avenue, the other nearby side roads, or indeed the school car park, to drop children off in the morning and to pick them up in the evening cause serious problems for the bus drivers, local residents and for the school.

On occasions the congestion caused by parents parking in the street or the school car park poses a major problem with traffic becoming jammed and unable to move all the way back to the main road. I would therefore ask you to ensure that if you bring your child to school by car, you drop them off on Greenhill well away from the entrance to Victoria Avenue (but also ensuring that visibility is not blocked for motorists trying to access Greenhill from other side streets). Thank you for your help.





Teaching School: SCITT & Internship Programme

The growth of a school-led system for Initial Teacher Training is providing opportunities for all new entrants to the profession to be trained by practising professionals in outstanding schools. This includes Prince Henry's SCITT, which has been successfully training the next generation of teachers since 2017.

We have already secured a number of trainee teachers for September 2022 across a range of subjects and will be interviewing further applicants during the next few weeks. However, we still have some vacancies for September 2022 across a range of subjects including Computer Science, MFL, Chemistry, Maths, English, Geography and Physical Education to name but a few. For further details visit our SCITT website at: <http://www.princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk/scitt>), and follow us on Twitter at: @PHHS_SCITT.

As it has done in previous years, Prince Henry's will be running a Paid Internship Scheme for potential teachers of Maths and Physics. We are pleased to confirm that we will be offering the same programme towards the end of the Summer Term 2022. The programme is open to undergraduates currently in their second year of studying for Maths, Physics or Engineering degrees. Candidates will be paid £300 per week for a three-week placement either in Prince Henry's or one of our partner schools. The aim of the programme is to attract new entrants to teaching much earlier in their degrees and this programme gives the interns a real insight into the workings of a school and the day-to-day lives of teachers. For further information, contact TSH@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.



Parent View

I am drawing Parent View to your attention because your voice will be essential in terms of the judgement Prince Henry's receives in its next inspection and can help us to achieve another Outstanding outcome. As you know, my colleagues and I are very impressed by the way our students contribute to the school and the vast majority of students we meet and talk to seem very content and happy in their learning. If you are a parent or carer, you simply need your email address and a password to register on the Parent View website at <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>. Once your login has been activated it only takes a few minutes to rate Prince Henry's against the 12 questions. You can also look at the views of some of our other parents. My staff and I would be very appreciative of five minutes of your time to kindly complete this survey for us. Thank you for your support with this.





House System

The House system, which involves students across all year groups, is designed to engage students with school life in a range of extra-curricular activities. Earlier this year, the school held elections for the appointment of the School House Ambassadors, who represent each House on the House Council. This includes House Leaders (drawn from the Sixth Form). During lockdown, members of the House Council were consulted for their views on remote learning, and their overwhelmingly positive comments were fed back to school staff. From this year, the House Council will closely liaise with the school's Diversity and Inclusion co-ordinators Mr Cains and Miss White. Further information is available in the Students & Parents area of the school website.

The current House standings are as follows:

House	Total House Points
Lichfield	18,522
Workman	18,289
Holland	17,585
Deacle	17,010
Burlingham	15,782
TOTAL	87,188

Sports News

There have been some excellent sporting performances already this year, particularly in relation to Table Tennis. [Our U19 Girls' Table Tennis Team of Abi Ingles, Emily Grove and Anna Cole](#), recently qualified for the national finals, having overcome schools from Essex and London in the Regional Finals. Anna and Emily have also qualified for the individual event at the national finals, alongside Harvey Gough (U16 Boys) and Beth Pye (U16 Girls).

Our KS4 Girls' Badminton Team of Leah Saunders, Emily Bearcroft, Ellie Wharrad and Carmen West won Bronze medals at the County Championships.

Please see the Sports News area of the website for the full list of weekly fixture and other results.



Interact

Interact have been busy since the start of term, trialling a new fundraising initiative called Friday Fun. Each week a year group of Interactors takes responsibility for Friday Fun. To date, events have included counting sweets, guess the name of the teddy, and chocolate to boil, to name but a few. The event is gaining momentum and hopefully a lot of money will be raised for Interact's chosen charities WWF and Magic Breakfast. Valentine's Day was full of romance with sales of roses and handmade cards.

Interact are now looking forward to their re-scheduled Drop the Mic Spring Show on Thursday 7th April. Doors will open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start and tickets will soon be on sale for this popular event.

Diary Dates

W/c 28th February
Wednesday 2nd March
Thursday 10th March
W/c 21st & 28th March
Tuesday 22nd March
Thursday 7th April
Thursday 7th April
Friday 8th April
Monday 25th April

Year 13 assessments
Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening
Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Evening
Year 11 assessments
Year 13 Parents'/Carers' Evening
Interact – Drop the Mic – Henrician Theatre, 6.30pm
End of term, 3.35pm
TED Day (school closed to students)
Term re-starts (Week 1)

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes



Dr A Evans
Headteacher

