



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

“Develop all learners to achieve their full potential”
“Create a culture of aspiration”

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



10 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a pleasure to welcome all students back to school, and with attendance figures in excess of 97% it seems that students were excited to get back too.

The students' response to our COVID safety measures has been brilliant and they have been really respectful in supporting our attempts to keep everyone safe. We really appreciate the collective effort, especially around the wearing of face coverings. We know that wearing masks for such a prolonged period of time is not comfortable but, in line with government guidance, it is necessary to try and reduce any potential spread of transmission. We urge students to ensure they remove their face coverings when outside to give themselves some respite.

We want to publicly thank everyone involved in the testing programme so far: students, yourselves as parents but none more so than the staff involved. The hours of dedication they have shown to ensure this swift re-opening has been possible has been phenomenal. So that you are aware, we have so far conducted over 2040 tests with only 1 student returning a positive test result. The student in question was asymptomatic and is isolating safely at home. We wish them and their family well.

This amazing record around testing is testament to the resolve of our community and speaks volumes for how everyone has been following the rules, and helping to reduce the spread of the virus. It also shows the real power of testing, as without conducting these tests prior to our return, that one positive test could have easily spread amongst the school population undetected.

We have a further 8 days of school testing to go and then, from the 21 March, students will be responsible for conducting their own tests at home. The home testing kits will be provided by the school next Friday 19 March and students will be given 6 tests to cover the period of time up to and including 21 April. Students will be given full instructions on how to conduct their tests as well as how to record their results. We will also send out further communication next week which gives you guidance on how to support your child in conducting the tests. Please can you ensure your child has adequate space in their school bag next Friday to carry their test kits, and if they are absent from school for any reason that you make every effort to come and collect their test kits on that day.

We are by no means through this pandemic, but things are definitely moving in the right direction. As a community, your support throughout this period has been outstanding and has helped us as a school work at the pace and sharpness required to best serve our students. This support will continue to be required over the coming months as we hopefully move towards brighter days and more glimpses of what we consider normal life. It is essential that we continue to follow the guidance and keep each other safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal

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