



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



30 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will have seen on the news, the spread of COVID-19 within school settings is once again on the rise and a number of schools within Derbyshire and Derby City are again having to send home large volumes of students to self-isolate.

At present we only have two confirmed cases amongst our student population (one in 'Step Up' Y10 and one in 'Step Up' Y8). The close contacts of these students have been traced and sent home to isolate, and at present this has only affected around 40 students. This morning we have had an additional suspected case from a lateral flow test and this has unfortunately meant that another 20 students in 'Step Up' Y8 have had to isolate until the result of that student's PCR test is known.

With the increased potential for spread I want to stress the importance of your child's twice weekly lateral flow tests. For students who are asymptomatic, these are crucial for us if we are going to be able to detect any further cases early on and minimise the number of students who might potentially have to stay home and isolate. I must stress that the result of tonight's test must be reported to school so that we can ensure no further cases are sitting undetected amongst our student population.

If your child or a member of your household develops COVID symptoms then it is important that you book a PCR test through the government's booking website (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>) and that your household isolates until the result is known.

With restrictions lifting and the percentage of the adults being vaccinated increasing we must remain vigilant. Whilst the risk of serious illness to children may be low, the risk to their education if we have an outbreak is great. Students must continue to follow COVID guidelines whilst in school, including ensuring that hands are cleaned regularly, social distancing is adhered to as much as possible, masks are worn in confined spaces and students do not share things such as drinks. The 'Step Up' initiative has been a huge success and students have thrived being back in specialist teaching spaces. If we were to have to send large volumes of staff or students home, this would put all of the recent progress in jeopardy.

To this point we have worked tirelessly as a school and community and I urge us over the final 4 weeks of term to remain alert and do everything we can to reduce the spread of the virus.

Thanks in advance for all of your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal

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Senior Vice Principal

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