



Maltby Hilltop School

an academy within Nexus MAT

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Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We are so pleased to be back at school and to be able to reopen to our students. We wish you a happy new year and hope the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases reduces in the coming weeks.

We have an unprecedented number of staff at this time who are confirmed or presenting with COVID-19 symptoms and waiting for test results. We are using our workforce and supply staff to support as best we can, but we are now reaching a tipping point where we just can't source the cover to have a safe number of adults in classes. This pressure is being felt across all schools in our academy Trust, and reports suggest this is a national issue for all state schools.

We therefore have to plan for some students to access education from home, until we can return to safe staffing levels. We will do everything we can to ensure statutory aged students remain able to attend school, and we will also do all we can to support families who cannot accommodate home learning.

We are exploring what a model of short term reduced provision looks like, so that we can ensure as many pupils are attending schools as often as possible. It is our strong preference to do this in a planned way, taking each week as it comes.

However, it may also be that we may have to communicate late notice closures if we do not have enough staff who know our pupils and can keep them safe. We will, wherever possible, give you as much notice as we can.

We are asking all staff and pupils over 5 years old to get a daily Lateral Flow Test (LFTs) before attending school for a 7 period, where they have potentially been in contact with someone who has tested positive.

Please do not send your child into school if they may have been in contact with a positive case until they have done a LFT. The Government guidance can be accessed in full at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection?utm_source=4%20January%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#SymptomsPositiveTest

Please be aware that face coverings are now expected to be worn in secondary schools and classrooms. If your child wishes to wear a mask in school they are very welcome to do so.

We do, however, understand that this is not appropriate for most of our pupils. We will continue to ask staff to wear a mask in and around school but not when teaching pupils unless they feel safer doing this. We would ask all of our visitors to wear a mask when in school.

We are very aware that this is a difficult and stressful time for everyone, and we will do all we can to not add to that stress. If you have any concerns do get in touch with myself or your child's class teacher.

David Burdett

Headteacher