

Our ref: KIN/ELO

Date: 28th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had the time to spend as families over the February Half Term Holiday. I know that all staff are raring to go into our next half term with our fantastic Year 7 cohort.

I am writing to you today with a letter regarding the COVID-19 updates that we received over the half term.

COVID-19 Legal Changes to Measures

During the holidays, the Prime Minister announced legal changes to the measures that we have taken in the fight against COVID-19.

- The main change for us as a school community is that from Monday 21st February, the Government is removing the guidance for staff and students in secondary schools to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. **This means that we at school will no longer be regularly providing packs of LFD tests to students and staff and that we do not expect you to take twice-weekly tests at home which you would report to us or the NHS.**
- From Thursday 24th February, The Government has removed the *legal requirement* to self-isolate after a positive test. However, there is clear guidance that:

Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

This means that, in the absence of asymptomatic testing, we are guided to follow the same guidelines as we have been using for students/staff who show signs of COVID-19, which is: **if a student has one of the COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a continuous cough and/or a new loss of taste or smell), they should follow isolation guidance immediately and go for a [PCR test](#).** The guidance should then be followed for a positive test. We will work hard to provide families, if necessary, a pack of LFD

Katie Innes Principal

Hugh Robinson CEO

Blandford Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3BT

T +44 (0)191 605 3835

E admin@callertonacademy.org.uk W www.callertonacademy.org.uk

tests for the day 5 and 6 testing. Families can also order LFD tests online and get them from local pharmacies.

- The requirement for pupils to wear face coverings on school transport has been lifted, therefore students on the school coach and on public transport can choose to not wear a face covering. If students would still like to wear a face covering, they are welcome to do so.

As usual, we will work with our local Public Health advisors, reviewing the local and national picture and will take advice as necessary.

The Government have provided a website for parents and carers, which outlines all you need to know about schools and the COVID-19 pandemic. You can access this [here](#).

There will be more changes to guidance in the coming months and I will keep you updated when these occur.

Thank you and Contact

As usual, thank you for your continued support. You have, as families, followed guidance and asked for help as necessary. Please continue to ask by calling us on 0191 605 3835 or on email at admin@callertonacademy.org.uk.

Yours Faithfully,



Mrs Innes
Principal
Callerton Academy

Katie Innes Principal

Hugh Robinson CEO

Blandford Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3BT

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E admin@callertonacademy.org.uk W www.callertonacademy.org.uk

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Registered Office: Gosforth Academy, Knightsbridge, Great North Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2JH