17th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to let you know there have been a number of confirmed cases of Covid 19 within the school community, and your child may have had contact with them during their infectious period.

I have taken advice from Public Health England and they have asked for the immediate reduction of mixing between groups and to strongly advise all students, staff and visitors to the site to wear a face covering. These are the safety measures that we already have in place and it is therefore with a heavy heart that I am unable to start easing restrictions just yet. I am very hopeful that we will be able to start revisiting the safety measures in the near future and I would once again encourage all families to support the school by ensuring routine LFT testing on a Sunday evening and Wednesday morning. Please do take your child for a PCR test if they do a positive LFT or have any symptoms of Covid.

Schools are no longer expected to identify the close contacts of cases of Covid - this is done by the national Test and Trace system although, we will have notified you if your child is seated within 2 metres of a positive case.

Children who are close contacts of someone with Covid 19 are no longer required to isolate, but they are advised to get a PCR test, and they are a higher risk of developing Covid 19 in the days after the contact. They do not need to isolate while they wait for the result, unless they have symptoms.

Your child should continue to attend school unless they develop symptoms of Covid 19 or are unwell. If they do develop symptoms, please keep your child at home and book a PCR test for them.

The 3 main covid symptoms remain a temperature or 37.8 deg or higher; a new continuous cough; a change to or loss of taste and smell. However, the most commonly reported symptoms of the Delta variant include headache, sore throat, tiredness, and cold-like symptoms, so please be aware of these as well and seek testing if you are in any doubt.
I know this news may be worrying and frustrating for students and parents alike, but I want to offer the reassurance that I am working very closely with Public Health England and that by all of us working together we will keep our community as safe as possible.

Last of all, please can I express how impressed I have been with the students and the way they have returned to school. Behaviour and attendance has been excellent – this in no small part due to parental support. Therefore, thank you for all of your efforts. St Mary’s College is a wonderful school and this is exemplified by our students.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs M Stead
Head of School