



15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

As you know, the number of positive COVID cases in school (amongst students and staff) is constantly monitored and analysed. This is so that we can identify any patterns, and identify if any of the threshold levels, as published in our Outbreak Management Plan, are reached. We seek and follow the advice from Public Health England (PHE) regarding how to respond to this data.

As a result of the increased number of positive COVID cases in the school community we have decided to put in place additional measures to reduce the risk of spreading the virus in school, in line with our Outbreak Management Plan. These additional measures will be introduced **from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October** until at least Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. The additional measures, listed below, apply to all Year Groups:

- Cancelling all face-to-face assemblies
- Limiting and amending singing activities
- Holding PE and sport activities outside whenever possible (avoiding disruption to the curriculum and flow of learning)
- Limiting the sharing of resources between students and groups
- Re-introduction of compulsory face coverings on corridors and in communal areas

The re-introduction of face coverings is likely to be the biggest change for most students, so further clarification is provided in the annex to this letter.

As you will know from our previous letters, we are strongly encouraging all students to take part in home testing so that we can limit the number of asymptomatic students circulating within our school community. Please engage with the testing process and encourage your child to test on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Additional test kits are available from school if needed.

The increased number of positive COVID cases is also impacting on our staffing levels. This means that your child may not always have their regular teacher for all their lessons. To help maintain standards and continuity in learning, many staff are teaching extra lessons, sometimes out of their subject specialism, whilst also setting remote learning for absent students. At Prince Henry's we are lucky that so many staff are willing to be flexible and help in this way. Please be understanding whilst we manage this challenging situation.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed of any further changes.

The safety and welfare of all our staff and children remains our top priority. If you would like to speak to someone, or have any further questions, please telephone the school to speak to your child's Year Manager in the first instance, or email [info@princehenrys.co.uk](mailto:info@princehenrys.co.uk) and mark it for the attention of Mr Temple, Assistant Headteacher.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs J Sheriff**  
**Executive Headteacher**



**The Use of Face Coverings at Prince Henry's  
From Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October until at least Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2021**

- Students must wear a face covering on public transport and when travelling on dedicated school transport. This does not apply to children and young people who are exempt from wearing face coverings.
- Students must wear a face covering in communal areas. This includes the following areas:
  - Corridors
  - Henry's Dining Room
  - Main Hall and Lower Hall
  - The Quad
  - The LibraryThis does not apply to children and young people who are exempt from wearing face coverings.
- Face coverings should not be worn in a classroom. This is not currently deemed necessary. This is because the risks are lower than on corridors etc (less close mixing with multiple students). This lower risk is also balanced against the negative impact on teaching and learning when face coverings are used in a classroom situation.
- The expectation remains that students supply their own face mask and be responsible for wearing and storing them appropriately and cleaning or replacing them as required (see below).
- Staff must wear a face covering outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in crowded corridors or communal areas)

**How to wear a face covering:**

Although the definition of a face covering is broad, if a face covering is used at Prince Henry's we expect staff and students to wear a face mask that is secured to the head with ties or ear loops (i.e. not a scarf / bandana etc.). The face mask:

- Should cover both the nose and mouth
- Should fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- Should be reusable and be washed regularly, following the manufacturer's instructions
- Should not contain a slogan, image, or any embellishments (eg badges, decorations affixed etc)
- Should be stored securely in a plastic re-sealable (zip-lock) bag when not in use
- Can be removed when a student needs to use a tissue to sneeze or cough

Wherever possible, staff and students should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or **use hand sanitiser** before putting on and after removing the face covering. Avoid handling the straps, ties or clips of the face covering.