



22nd October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the half term I am delighted to report that all the measures you have supported us to put in place have brought about a significant reduction in the number of positive coronavirus cases within our school community. Having weathered this storm, I hope that next half term is a little more straightforward and we are adjusting our measures accordingly in line with advice for all Tameside secondary schools from the Population Health Team. From Monday 1st November:

- **All pupils** (other than those recently testing positive) **should take a lateral flow test just before school reopens**. Anyone with a positive result should stay at home and take a PCR test.
- **Any pupil displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should NOT come to school** but should take a PCR test (unless exempt as they have had a positive PCR result within the last 90 days).
- **Face masks must be worn while moving around school** and in the dining area. Face masks will be optional while pupils are in classrooms, eating or whilst outside.
- We are asking all pupils and who **live with someone who has COVID-19** to do daily lateral flow tests before coming into school (unless exempt as they have had a positive PCR result within the last 90 days). Pupils should start this testing from the day their household member either became unwell with COVID-19 or tested positive if they did not have symptoms and continue this for 10 days.

Please remember:

If your child tests negative, they can continue attending school.

If your child has a positive LFD result, they must start isolating, have a PCR test and inform school.

- **We strongly encourage families to test at home twice a week** and to register their results, even when negative. This important testing helps to pick up the infection early, preventing further spread, keeping families, friends and school protected from COVID-19. Test packs are available from Student Services.
- **Positive Cases in School** - if your child is a close contact of a case in school, please book them in to take a PCR test as soon as possible (unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days); they can continue to attend in the meantime as long as they have no symptoms.

As pupils are likely to mix socially during the break, it is really important that they take a lateral flow test prior to returning so that asymptomatic carriers of the virus can be identified.

I am really looking forward to the time when I can start a newsletter with something other than COVID updates!

Year 11 Mock Exams

A reminder that Year 11 Mock Exams will take place during week beginning 8th November. For the last two years, these exams have proved to be vital evidence for Teacher Assessed Grades and, as we cannot yet be certain what will happen with exams this year, this may be the case again. This means that attendance for Mock Exams is really important and all Year 11 pupils should take them seriously and should take some time to revise in advance so that they can perform at their best.

A message from Mr Beeden (Head of PE) - Cross County Week in PE for Years 7 to 10

We are pleased to announce that the Tameside Schools Cross Country competition is restarting this year after being cancelled last year due to the pandemic. The PE Department is always keen to give every pupil

the opportunity to represent the school in this event which is taking place during the school day on Tuesday 7th December at Curzon Ashton. All pupils in Year 7 to 10 will therefore be taking part in cross country lessons in the week beginning 8th November to have a chance to qualify for the team. **For that week only, pupils will be expected to come to school in their school uniform, and change into and out of their PE kit at the start and end of their PE lessons, as they can get muddy/wet. It is advisable that they bring a spare bag to put their PE kit in at the end of the lesson.** If pupils forget to bring their PE kit, we will either lend them some or arrange for them to run the cross country course during PE the following week.

Formula One in Schools

We have a small but very talented team of Year 11 pupils who have been involved in this fabulous initiative for some years now and **Team Hyde Racing** - our school's F1 in Schools team - have made a great start to their season. They have moved up a class and have approached several local companies seeking sponsorship. Their campaign has proved successful and Mercedes Benz of Stockport have offered their sponsorship with a significant amount of money; this will help fund the team and support further successes!

Next half term for Rachel, Sophie and Max will be presenting an assembly and offering other pupils a chance to create a junior team under their expert coaching, and compete in the challenge. Superstars!



Anti-bullying week – KND campaign

As we return from the half term break at the start of November, our Student Leadership Team are launching their KND campaign which will include an assembly for each year group with the theme of spreading **KiNDness**. They will also offer a KND lettering photo opportunity for pupils to be the 'i' in KIND and will launch their Little Book of Kindness.

A lovely initiative driven by our fabulous Student Leads who have lots of other plans too...

Student Leadership News

This half term the team have worked with Miss Parker to host a very well-supported Macmillan cake sale; created a Year 11 study space for independent work between 8am and the start of school and started the 'Take I Home' eco campaign to reduce pupils' plastic waste in school.

Alongside next half term's KND campaign, there will be the annual staff vs students football match to raise money for Children in Need, our Children in Need Superhero artwork raffle and our festive jumper day.



We are so proud of our very proactive Student Leaders who are such fantastic role models within our school!

Free School Meals

£15 vouchers have been issued via text or email to all families in receipt of free school meals to cover the half term break. Please email school via admin@hydehighschool.uk if you have not received your vouchers but please note that school is closed next week and emails will only be checked on Monday and Tuesday (25th and 26th October).

Dates for your diary

A reminder of dates for the next half term and drawing your attention to the last weekend in November when school is closed to pupils on the Friday and Monday.

 Dates for your diary: 2021-22	
Return to school	Monday 1 st November 2021
Year 11 mocks	Monday 8 th – Friday 12 th November 2021
Year 9 booster immunisations	Monday 22 nd – Thursday 25 th November 2021
School closed	Friday 26 th November 2021
INSET day (school closed to students)	Monday 29 th November 2021
Year 11 Parents' Evening (virtual)	Thursday 2 nd December 2021
Finish for Christmas	Friday 17 th December 2021 (12pm finish)
Return to school	Wednesday 5 th January 2022

It just remains for me to wish all of our pupils and families a lovely half term break. Thank you once again for your continued support for your child and for our school, it is very much appreciated.

Best wishes, keep safe.

ARadcliffe

Andrea Radcliffe
Headteacher

Reminder of the updated guidance:

