



Oliver Burwood

DNEAT Chief Executive Officer

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As a Trust, we and the leaders in our schools are looking at the guidance released yesterday evening by the Department for Education in relation to Covid and its management in schools. This relates to the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday about 'Living with Covid.' We will issue guidance to our academies, staff and families later this week but wanted to update all families with the below key messages in the short term:

- **There is no immediate change in how your school manages Covid.** Systems that have been in place this term will remain in place until further notice.
- **Please seek a test for your child if they are showing symptoms.** Testing continues to be in place as before for those showing symptoms and will be until 1 April.
- **If your child tests positive for Covid please ensure they isolate in line with PHE guidance.** This means at least 5 days self isolation. We would ask that you carry out lateral flow testing on day 5 and 6 to see if they can return to school. We will ask our staff to do the same.
- **The government has announced twice weekly lateral flow tests will stop for staff and secondary age students immediately.** There are still lateral flow tests available until 1 April and if you wish to use these, we would support your choice to do so as parents, as we will with our staff.

Whilst the legal requirements for isolation have changed, the Public Health England (PHE) guidance remains. As schools we have and always will follow the PHE guidance to limit the spread of infectious diseases as we do for illnesses such as norovirus or chicken pox.

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Our school communities have worked well together to keep our schools open and as safe for students and staff as possible. Your support as parents has been vital in this. We will continue to work together as guidance changes and needs to be implemented and will provide you with updates where appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Burwood
DNEAT Chief Executive Officer

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