

People Directorate
Westfields
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30 June 2021

## Dear Parents/carers

As we approach the final few weeks of the term I wanted to contact you to thank you for the way you have supported your children and their schools this year and to encourage you to continue to follow the advice from your school so that we can minimise any positive cases on the lead up to the summer holidays.

We know that isolations and remote learning have brought about difficulties, but we have been impressed by the creative ways that teachers have made sure that learning can continue and that relationships with pupils have been maintained.

Please be assured that when we have had to isolate children or make changes to events such as transition days or end of year celebrations we have kept these to a minimum whilst following the advice from Public Health in order to reduce the rate of infections and transmission but balance this with the mental health and wellbeing of everyone concerned. Tests has been one of our main control measures and have expanded massively over the year. The use of Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) for all adults and students in Y7 and above has identified many cases who did not show any symptoms. By supporting us in this way, you have helped to identify these individuals and by asking them and their close contacts to stay away from school for 10 days have prevented outbreaks which could have caused many more infections and isolations.

## Please will you continue to support us in this way until the end of term by doing the following:

- Carry out LFTs twice each week on all adults and pupils in Y7 and above who are well and not showing any symptoms
- 2) Report any positive result to school as soon as possible so that contacts can be alerted. The individual should stay at home and isolate.
- 3) Book a PCR test for any adult or child who displays symptoms, staying away from school until the result is known

I am sure you are aware that we are now designated as an Enhanced Support Area due to the rise in cases but your support with testing as above will make a real difference. By doing this you will be helping to suppress the cases in school over the next few weeks and so make us all better placed to enjoy the well-deserved summer holidays.

## Yours faithfully

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Jacky Forster Director of Education and 14-19 Skills	Matt Tyrer Director of Public Health