



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

1 July 2021

Dear parent/carer

As you may have seen in the national press, the recent increase in COVID-19 cases across the country is having a particular impact on schools. Isolation guidelines mean that, with each confirmed case, a significant number of staff and students are having to isolate at home. In this letter I will give you an update on the situation at Hampstead School and information on how we hope to moderate the impact of future cases.

As with previous letters, the main headlines are below, followed by a greater level of detail.

- **The last two weeks have seen nine cases, but no evidence of in-school transmission.**
- **LFD testing is working – please make sure your child tests every Wednesday and Sunday.**
- **We are going to return to face coverings being compulsory indoors from Monday 5 July.**
- **Remote learning expectations can be accessed via [this link](#).**
- **Do not send your child to school if someone in your household is unwell.**

Confirmed case update

Over the past two weeks, we have had a further nine positive cases reported amongst members of the school community. In all cases we have been in touch with those directly affected, running track and trace procedures and identifying close contacts. Thank you for your support in this. Although this represents a significant increase in cases experienced in school, you will be reassured to know that:

- Effective use of LFD testing has dramatically reduced the number of close contacts in school
- None of the in-school close contacts identified since May have gone on to develop the virus
- The Hampstead School case pattern mirrors the experience of other local schools
- An analysis of this pattern suggests that in-school transmission is minimal

Head: Matthew Sadler BA (Hons), NPQH
Hampstead School, Westbere Road, London NW2 3RT

T: 020 7794 8133 E: enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk www.hampsteadschool.org.uk



Lateral Flow Device testing – it is working

In a number of cases, a routine LFD test has picked up asymptomatic cases. This has meant that the student has not attended school, nobody has been in close contact and the risk of transmission has been greatly reduced. Please continue to carry out LFD testing on a Sunday and Wednesday evening.

Face coverings

In response to the changing local and national picture, and having taken feedback from staff and parents, face coverings will return to being mandatory in all indoor areas from Monday 5 July. This will include corridors, classrooms and the school dining room.

The exceptions will be (i) if sitting down in the dining room and eating food and (ii) if taking part in indoor strenuous sport.

If wearing a face covering poses a difficulty for your child, please contact their Head of Year who will issue them with an exemption card.

Staff will be allowed to remove face coverings in situations when social distancing is possible and when delivering a lesson from the front of the room.

Both staff and students will be able to remove face coverings when outside.

Please make sure your child brings two face coverings to school each day from Monday.

Remote learning expectations

A reminder that, should your child have to self-isolate, remote learning expectations are communicated very clearly on our website. All of the relevant information can be found via [this link](#).

Household isolation guidelines

With case numbers rising, it is also important to remind families that, should someone suffer symptoms at home, the whole household should isolate until a negative test is received. Do not send your child into school if someone at home is feeling unwell or is waiting for a test result.

Thank you for your ongoing support in these difficult times. If you have any questions, concerns or feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

All best wishes



Matthew Sadler
Head