



21st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus Update

Over the last week we have experienced a spike in the number of positive Covid cases within our school, most notably in year 9. We continue to follow the Government expectations and have sought additional guidance. We are advised such spikes have occurred in other schools within the area and cases have then decreased, however numbers are rising nationally. As you are aware the NHS now carry out the track and trace process previously managed by schools and under eighteen year olds are not required to routinely isolate following contact with positive cases as they once were.

During the half term break please continue to encourage your child to complete regular lateral flow tests and report any positive results to the NHS in the usual way. Positive lateral flow tests should be confirmed by a PCR test. To help us monitor the situation during the half term break please report any positive PCR results by emailing office@stclementshigh.org.uk. **We return to school on Monday 1st November so please remind your child to complete a lateral flow test either Sunday night or Monday morning prior to returning to school.**

At the start of the term we explained the current Government guidance for schools. Before we return to school, please reiterate the importance of these actions to your child as shown below:

- Students sanitise their hands on entry and exit to every room
- Desks are cleaned with sanitising spray at the end of every lesson
- Students travel around the school using the outside spaces to avoid enclosed corridors
- Classrooms remain organised with all desks facing forwards
- Windows and doors are kept open where practical to allow good ventilation

There is currently a national debate about the need to reintroduce additional safety measures in schools and it is highly likely that new Government guidance will be issued during the half term break. **I must therefore ask that all students bring a face mask to school when they return in November**, ideally a washable, reusable type. Details of exactly when students will be expected to wear face masks will be explained to the students on the first day back. We understand some students are medically exempt from wearing masks and we will provide disposable masks for those unable to source them. We will continue to take advice from Public Health officials as we have throughout the pandemic.

As you will be aware both the planned Covid and Flu vaccinations for students were postponed by the NHS, further information is now available about the vaccinations which will be sent to you shortly. We have now received some CO₂ monitors from the Government; these will be used to help monitor the ventilation levels in our smaller classrooms and will be installed during the half term break.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N. K. Willingham
Headteacher

