

Haydock High School

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Email: enquiries@haydockhigh.sthelens.org.uk

www.haydockhigh.org.uk

Ref: PAB/KB

17th June 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you are probably aware there has been a significant increase in the numbers of Covid cases in St. Helens. We are asking for your support with the following to keep all students and their families safe:

Please test your child regularly. We estimate that less than 20% of students are being tested regularly. With this in mind, we will be testing students in school potentially over the next four weeks. Only positive tests will be communicated to parents and carers. We will only test students who we have consent for.

All pupils need to wear face masks in class and in all communal areas potentially for the next four weeks. Please do remind your child about these expectations and make sure that they have a mask for the day.

Please discuss the safety measures, such as, staying 2m from others and washing / sanitising hands with your child regularly and routinely throughout the day.

We are so close to the end of the year and we want to do everything we can to avoid sending year groups home, or needing to ask students to isolate for 10 days, or spreading the virus in the community leading to illness or hospitalisation. We all need to work together on this.

Thanks for your support. We need a big effort for these next two weeks. Please see some key messages from the local authority below.

Please email pabram@haydockhigh.sthelens.org.uk if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

Mr. P. Abram Head of School



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Advice from the Local Authority

As you know there has been a significant rise in the number of new Covid-19 cases in both St Helens and the North West in recent weeks, with many being linked to the Delta variant.

Yesterday the Liverpool City Region, which includes St Helens has been designated as an Enhanced Response Area. Infection rates are rising rapidly and as many of you will know are affecting children and staff attending schools in our area. Evidence from Public Health England and others indicates that this rise will continue.

We have received updated guidance this week from the Department For Education regarding group events in light of the delayed lifting of additional restrictions in England.

With the new Delta variant believed to be up to 60 per cent more transmissible, the wearing of face coverings in communal spaces and on school buses remains crucially important. Thus, we are recommending in secondary schools the continued use of face masks. We would also advise that where possible in secondary schools they should continue to be worn in classrooms by all school staff and high school pupils.

As a consequence of the rise in infection we also strongly advise that schools postpone prom events whether or not they are taking place on either school sites or at an outside venue. This advice will be reviewed following any further guidance from government.

The risk from staging events like this in the current situation cannot be overstated. We are aware of a recent case outside the borough, for example, where one child with the virus arrived at an event similar to a prom that led to an outbreak affecting more than 60 people. This is something that we all do not want to happen here in St Helens.

We do need your support in this area, and we would also ask that you advise us immediately of any new cases in your school. This will help us identify any localised outbreaks of the variant in local communities and enable us to take swift action to limit its spread.