2nd November 2021

Dear Parents

I am writing to update you with the new Covid 19 arrangements at Brymore which will be in place for at least the next two weeks. These arrangements follow on from the school being placed in amber status by Public Health England and the sharp increase in cases across the SW of England and Somerset in particular.

We intend to reintroduce some of the measures that were in place last year however, we do not intend to introduce all of them and the key changes are highlighted below:

**Face Masks**

Boys will now be expected wear face masks when lining up for all lessons and meal- times and they’ll need to keep their face masks on until they have entered the room and are sat down. This applies to all lessons, tutor time and when using the school dining hall. Boys will also be expected to wear face masks as they leave the room and within the teaching block corridor. Boys using the common rooms at break and lunchtime will also be expected to wear face masks. During tutor time when boys are in mixed year groups, face masks will need to be worn throughout.

**Hand Sanitiser**

Boys will be expected to hand sanitise on entry to all the rooms including classrooms, the dining hall, common rooms and the main hall.

**Assemblies**

We will not be running whole school assemblies for at least the next two weeks. Year 7, 8 and 9 will have an assembly together and Year 10 and 11 will have an assembly together. This will allow for social distancing, boys will continue to wear masks and there will be no singing.

**After School Activities/Fixtures**

Many Somerset schools have halted sports fixtures however, there are some that plan to continue with these. We also intend to continue with fixtures and after school activities as we believe these are key to supporting the boys with their mental health and well-being.

**Transport**

Boys will be expected to wear masks on school transport at all times. We intend to continue with school visits already organised such as Blood Brothers however, masks will need to be worn throughout the journey.

**Self-isolation/Testing**

I would strongly encourage you to ensure that your son is vaccinated and that you continue with twice weekly lateral flow testing. I fully respect that this is a personal decision however, it is a key strategy in protecting the whole of the Brymore community. We will continue to ensure boarders are tested at school.

If your son tests positive using a lateral flow test or has one of the three main symptoms then he needs to stay at home and self-isolate and a PCR test needs to be booked as soon as possible. If your son then tests negative with a PCR test he can return to school if well enough to do so.

If your son is unwell and has a fever he should remain at home until 24hrs after he has been symptom free. This is the advice of Public Health England even if he tests negative for Covid with a PCR test.

Household members/siblings of confirmed cases are advised to take daily lateral flow tests while awaiting their PCR test results and to continue to attend school (unless the test is positive).

Thank you once again for your continuing support in what is a rapidly changing landscape.

Yours faithfully

Mark Thomas