

Dear Parents,

I'm writing with an update on the Covid situation.

At the start of term, there have been 25 cases that parents have reported across primary and secondary. These pupils have received positive LFD or PCR tests over the holidays and so have started the term isolating at home.

Today we tested over 600 pupils from Years 7 to Year 13. Through asymptomatic testing we have also identified 13 young people who presented no symptoms and would not have been aware they had covid if they had not been tested. This highlights the importance of testing regularly, even if you don't have symptoms.

We have taken advice from Ark school and Public Health England and whilst these figures do not mean we need to take the most severe action (e.g. institute bubbling or other measures), the cases do show how many people connected to KSA have Covid.

It is much more than at any point in the pandemic, and so it warrants action from us all to ensure we reduce the numbers in the school.

Additional Measures – Actions for Parents

Following discussions with parents and taking into account the challenging situation, we ask for your support in a number of ways. These additional measures are to be in place over the next few weeks – we are likely to have much larger numbers now than in the future, and in the short term we believe this is proportionate.

Masks

Parents, please always wear a face covering when you are on the school site, inside or outside.

All secondary pupils must wear a face covering in lessons as well as in communal areas. Please make sure your child has a proper face covering each day.

Testing

Primary parents: We ask that all parents test their primary children by LFD at home twice a week, as secondary pupils do. We are not provided tests for Primary pupils and so cannot provide these, but you should be able to pick up LFD tests from pharmacies for free. You do not need to log these tests with the school but please test your child and let us know if they are positive.

Secondary Parents: We ask that parents make sure that their children are LFD testing twice a week and record the result on the school form every time.

In addition we will be doing occasional in school home tests to make sure a minimum level of testing is happening for every child, including daily tests in particular classes where appropriate.

When pupils do a home test in school, they will write down the cartridge number in their planner and take these home and log them at home. We are doing these tests in school to

ensure that LFD testing is happening for Secondary pupils. Pupils will do the tests themselves in their classrooms. You will be informed promptly if they test positive.

Vaccination

We encourage all eligible pupils, staff and family members to be vaccinated.

Anyone who gets COVID-19 can become seriously ill or have long-term effects (long COVID). A large proportion of 12-15 year olds have ongoing symptoms from Covid. The COVID-19 vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and others.

Research has shown the vaccines help:

- reduce your risk of getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19
- reduce your risk of catching or spreading COVID-19
- protect against COVID-19 variants including Omicron

More information is found on this short [video](#).

Family members can get vaccinated by following [this link](#).

Pupils who are 12 or older will have the chance to get vaccinated in school in the weeks ahead. If they are 12-15 you can register and give consent for your child for vaccination by completing this [form](#). Please complete this if you want your child to get their first dose or second dose (even if you filled in consent back in October, you must fill it in again to receive the vaccine this time). 16 to 18 year olds can register themselves and consent for themselves for vaccination.

Thank you for your support in this challenging time.

Yours,

Max Haimendorf
Principal