



23 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### Re: Update Covid-19: Lateral Flow Device Tests, Home Testing and Assessments

I am writing to let you know that our second week back after the Easter break, like the first week, has gone extremely well; as they did when we reopened before Easter, our children continue to keep their focus on reengaging with school routines and expectations – we are proud of their conduct and I wish to thank them for working together with their friends, peers and members of staff; they have shown great resilience and care. It continues to be a challenging time and we must continue to be vigilant and maintain our standards and expectations. Having walked around the school regularly during lesson time and whilst on duty, it is clear that despite the challenges, everyone continues to focus on making progress and there is a clear desire to get things back to usual and reengage in learning.

### Maintaining COVID-19 protective measures (self-isolation payments, Home testing and face coverings)

#### Self-isolation payments

We have been asked by Bradford Local Authority to remind parents/carers of the procedures for applying for self-isolation payments – this is referred to in the letter that is sent to parents/carers in the event of their child being required to self-isolate following notification of a positive test using LFD or PCR test. Criteria for parents to apply for self-isolation payments changed during the Easter Holidays to £500 if you have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either as a COVID case or contact please access the website using the following link: [Test and trace support payment | Bradford Council](#) .

#### Home Testing

In a recent bulletin from the Department for Education (DfE) we were notified that Home Testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) is to continue until 23 July 2021. We have not been notified what is to happen at that time or after this date.

In addition, Bradford Local Authority have requested we provide the following information:

**Changes to testing guidance - Confirmatory PCR after positive LFD tests:** From 1 April 2021, national guidance changed to say that **all** positive LFD tests (assisted or not) should trigger immediate self-isolation and be confirmed by a PCR, ideally within 2 days of the positive LFD result. Within two days means the PCR should be taken on the day the LFD test was taken, the next day, or the following day. Although parents and pupils may be getting fed up of taking Lateral Flow Device tests they are playing their part in the overall effort to identify and reduce infections. LFD tests taken at home or school are now detecting about a third of our cases in children and young people, so please continue to encourage use of these tests until further notice. The DfE have notified you that the testing programme is extended until Friday 23 July 2021.

See our [BSO page](#) for a flow chart on this in testing guidance and in the latest advice section.

#### Face coverings

The DfE have issued a notice that the wearing of facemasks in schools, including in classrooms will be reviewed by 17 May 2021. It is not clear currently what the implications are of this review.

## **Parents/Carers Consultation Evenings**

Last term we trialled the use of an online system for a Sixth Form parents/carers consultation evening; this proved to be very successful and we received a lot of positive feedback. We are currently organising a parents/carers consultation evening for each of Years 7 to 10 to take place next half-term. If you have a child in any of these four year groups, you will be receiving a notification letter with details of how to book an appointment online.

## **Assessments for Years 11 and 13**

Further to my letter of 19 March 2021, we are currently having assessments in school that will contribute to the evidence base for making Teacher Assessed Grades. I have been working with Miss Barrow, our Senior Leader Achievement and we have completed both a policy document and Subject Assessment Evidence log, which after final review next week will be issued to parents/carers. This will detail the range of evidence by subject that is being used to determine the Teacher Assessed Grade.

I appreciate it is an anxious time for pupils and students in examination years but I have been working with Faculty Leaders and senior members of staff since September 2020 to have in place a system that is robust and fair in determining the grades pupils and students are awarded. I wish to emphasise that it is the situation that no member of staff can inform any pupil or student the grade that is to be submitted as the Teacher Assessed Grade.

## **Leaving dates**

Again, in my letter of 19 March 2021, I explained that a "Leaving Date" for Years 11 and 13 has not been determined. However, as the process for Assessment 2021 requires all grade submissions to be complete by Friday 18 June 2021, the two weeks after May half-term will be focusing on finalising the marking of assessments and standardisation procedures for all teachers of Years 11 and 13. Therefore, the intention is that we will suspend Years 11 and 13 from Friday 28 May 2021. For Year 11, we will invite pupils back in to access a Sixth Form Level learning programme as well as support and engagement programmes for pupils considering college or apprenticeship; I will write again to give details of this programme.

## **Consultation**

As so much has happened since March 2020 when lockdown was announced and implemented, the organisation of school and curriculum delivery has undergone many significant changes. I have been discussing with my Senior Leadership Team, Pastoral Leaders and Faculty Leaders the need for a consultation on what we would consider as changes that have taken place over this last twelve months that we would want to retain and become part of what we do at Titus Salt School. I wish to involve parents/carers in this process so you will be receiving a consultation document later this half-term asking for your views on some of the changes we have had to make in response to living with COVID-19.

Once again, I wish to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we respond to the advice and guidance published to school. It has been another demanding week but again it has been a pleasure to be Headteacher as our pupils have returned in good spirits and they continue to take everything in their stride.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel  
Headteacher