

28 January 2022

PS/ 132/22

Dear Parents/Carers and students,

Regrettably the focus of today's letter will need to be our continued efforts to manage the rise in COVID infections across the students and staff.

Firstly, can I thank all of you for your support this week, particularly those of you who have had to adjust your family's plans to accommodate your children doing a day of Remote Learning.

Unfortunately the absence rates amongst staff remain high, yesterday we had 13 teachers and 5 support staff isolating at home due to COVID infections. Whilst we are hopeful that some of these staff will start to test negative over the weekend (and return to work on Monday/Tuesday) there is currently no certainty over this. We have several staff who are currently 8-10 days into an infection and continuing to test positive.

COVID infection numbers among students

The number of students currently infected with COVID is 155, with more cases in Years 7 and 8 than higher up the school. The highest rise in the number of cases this week has been in Year 7.

Year 7 Students working remotely on Monday and Tuesday

We have therefore made the difficult decision to direct Year 7 students to work remotely from home on **Monday 31st January and Tuesday 1st February**. The reasons for this decision are:

- Staff absence levels remain too high to safely supervise all students on site (although we are hopeful that this will improve on Monday/Tuesday as staff return following negative tests)
- Infection rates in Year 7 are currently higher than in other year groups - this short period of remote learning may help to break any cycle of community based transmission
- Up until this point in time we have protected Year 7 from periods of remote learning, focussing them on the older year groups instead

Work for Year 7 students will be set on Google Classroom by their normal class teachers. Some teachers may also run 'live' lessons on Google Meet (they will invite their students to these sessions) and students should follow their normal school timetable when working remotely. All work produced and handed in via Google Classroom will be marked by the usual teacher and feedback will be provided.

COVID testing - please continue regular testing

The main symptoms of COVID are still considered to be a high temperature, new and continuous cough and loss (or change to) the senses of taste and smell. However the Omicron variant may also give sufferers a scratchy throat, sneezing, fatigue, loss of appetite and/or lower back pain. As many of these symptoms are also associated with winter colds (and other viral conditions) it is vital that we all continue to do our **twice weekly Lateral Flow tests** in order to reduce the risk of more widespread transmission. If your child has been in close contact with an infected person please increase this to daily testing for 7 days following contact. **Please test your children regularly to protect the community.**

Mask wearing in school

In view of the spike in COVID cases in the school community we have made the decision to **continue** to direct students to wear face masks when they are in indoor communal spaces until at least next Friday. Please ensure that your child has a suitable face covering (unless exempt) each day. This decision will be reviewed on **Friday 4th February**.

Year 11 Mocks starting on Monday 31st January

We are still intending to run the second series of Year 11 mock exams starting on Monday 31st January and running through to Friday 11th. Students will come to school every day as normal during this period **(there is no 'study leave')** and will attend their lessons as normal when not completing mock exams. We know that they have been working hard towards these and wish them luck.

Many thanks for your continued support,



Simon Liley,
Headteacher

Key contacts for parents/carers:

Year group	Year Team Leader and Student Support Officer	Email addresses	Phone numbers
Year 7	Miss Pegden (YTL) Mrs Cooper (SSO - Mon-Wed) Mrs Fullman (SSO - Thur/Fri)	npegden@theangmeringschool.co.uk lcooper@theangmeringschool.co.uk sfullman@theangmeringschool.co.uk	(01903) 778317 (01903) 778357 (01903) 778389
Year 8	Mrs Hook (YTL) Mrs Cooper (SSO - Mon-Wed) Mrs Fullman (SSO - Thur/Fri)	lhook@theangmeringschool.co.uk lcooper@theangmeringschool.co.uk sfullman@theangmeringschool.co.uk	(01903) 778338 (01903) 778357 (01903) 778389
Year 9	Mr Smith (YTL) Mrs Cooper (SSO - Mon-Wed) Mrs Fullman (SSO - Thur/Fri)	ssmith@theangmeringschool.co.uk lcooper@theangmeringschool.co.uk sfullman@theangmeringschool.co.uk	(01903) 778382 (01903) 778357 (01903) 778389
Year 10	Mr Middleton (YTL) Mrs Burn (SSO)	mmiddleton@theangmeringschool.co.uk aburn@theangmeringschool.co.uk	(01903) 778339 (01903) 778396
Year 11	Mrs Fillery (YTL) Mrs Burn (SSO)	jfillery@theangmeringschool.co.uk aburn@theangmeringschool.co.uk	(01903) 778311 (01903) 778396
Sixth Form	Mr Kerrison (Leader of VI Form) Miss Hughes (VI Form Manager)	akerrison@theangmeringschool.co.uk ehughes@theangmeringschool.co.uk	(01903) 778356 (01903) 778399