

16 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer of Year 8 and Year 9 Students

We wish to make you aware that we have had a significant number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 in our Year 8 and Year 9 cohorts. Having spent a lot of time looking at the close contacts and assessing the possible risk of transmission, in conjunction with local Public Health officials, the decision has been made to ask all of our Year 8 and Year 9 students to begin remote learning with effect from Monday 19 July.

We are aware that this decision will cause a mixed response; this step to move these year groups to a remote learning offer has not been taken lightly and is necessary to halt further spread of the highly transmissible delta variant of Covid-19. The large numbers of positive tests have caused significant concern that the virus is being transmitted amongst these cohorts. It is now evident that to reduce the spread of this virus, it is important for us to take this decision. We are extremely confident in our ability to deliver learning remotely.

This decision means that **all Year 8 and Year 9 students will learn remotely up to and including compulsory attendance at remote tutor time on Wednesday 21 July.**

Please be aware that this move to remote learning is **NOT** an instruction for all students to self-isolate. Those students who are required to self-isolate have been advised and we have confirmed this by email (some will receive their confirmatory email tomorrow) and this includes the date that they must self-isolate up to. Some students may still receive notification to self-isolate based on Public Health England instructions to identify contacts from classes where there have been two positive cases in the last fourteen days. This will be sent in a separate correspondence from the school.

We acknowledge the late notice of this decision; I would like to assure you that we have worked hard throughout the day and this evening to ensure that this decision is communicated to you as quickly as we could, having taken full consideration of all factors and discussed the matter robustly and comprehensively with Public Health advisors.

Important Information from Public Health

All students in Years 8 and 9 are asked to complete a PCR test. This is extremely important in protecting the local community. If anyone in your household has symptoms of Covid-19, the household needs to isolate and also access a PCR test.

Please continue to email us if your child has a positive LFT or PCR result at covid19@caludoncastle.co.uk. Your support in this is very much appreciated.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

T: 02476 444 822 | **E:** enquiries@caludoncastle.co.uk | **W:** www.caludoncastle.co.uk

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Headteacher
Ms S Kenrick

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What to do if your child develops symptoms of Covid 19

For most people, especially children, Covid-19 will be a mild illness. The most common symptoms of Covid-19 are recent onset of:

- New continuous cough and/or
- High temperature and/or
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

In addition, symptoms for the Delta variant include:

- Headache
- Sore throat
- Runny nose

If your child develops any of these symptoms of Covid-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. At that time all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise.

How to stop Covid-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with Covid-19:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at nhs.uk/coronavirus

Support with isolation periods

If you or your child has been advised to self-isolate, you could be eligible for a payment and the eligibility threshold for this has increased to an annual income of £26,000 or less. This payment is designed to support your household during the isolation and for more information, please access the website: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/testandtracesupportpayments>

Working from home

Our teachers will be setting work for our Year 8 and 9 students and, as per previous occasions of remote learning, all lesson information will be communicated via their Firefly accounts. The expectation is that lessons will take place as per their normal timetable, so please do ensure that students are logging into Firefly and following instructions in advance of their designated lesson times. We anticipate that the vast majority of learning will be delivered 'live' via Teams.

Yours faithfully



Sarah Kenrick
Headteacher