



Dear Parents and Carers,

East Sussex County Council has asked Principals to forward a letter to you attached to the email alongside this letter. The letter is about controlling Covid levels in schools given that there is a high rate of incidence in East Sussex now.

Alexandra has, so far, had falling rates at the Helenswood Campus, but growing rates at the William Parker campus. But overall we have seen relatively low rates. This will be due to the contingency measures that we introduced early in the new academic year. I would like to thank you and your children for supporting the school with the additional measures. The students are to be particularly thanked at Helenswood, on the way that the vast majority of them have remembered to put their face coverings on as they came into the school building this week.

Given the letter from ESCC we will continue to follow the extra precautions until the end of term and for at least the first two weeks of January. The additional measures that we have in place are:

- 1. Face coverings in corridors** - please can parents ensure that their children have a face covering. We are now charging 20p for face coverings and they are compulsory in the corridors. Students who are exempt need to wear a badge or a lanyard.
- 2. Enhanced cleaning** – cleaning high contact points, like bannisters and light switches, will occur during the school day.
- 3. Sanitising of hands at the start of lessons** – teachers will ask students to sanitise at the beginning of lessons. Students are encouraged to bring their own sanitiser to school.
- 4. Sanitising desks at the start of the school day** – tutors will ask the tutor group to sanitise the desks each morning.
- 5. Improved ventilation** – doors and windows will be propped open as required to ensure a good airflow.
- 6. Public transport to school** – please remind your children that they should wear their face coverings on public transport
- 7. Increased lateral flow tests** – we would like to increase your children's testing to testing on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is proving to be effective in identifying Covid cases early and reducing the transmission of Covid. In addition, lateral flow tests for students can be collected from receptions.

We will make a change to how we notify parents of cases of Covid in the school. We know that parents can receive multiple messages when their child has been in a classroom with a child who has tested positive for Covid and that this can be annoying. Therefore, we will only contact parents if there are three or more cases in their child's year group.

The ESCC letter also emphasises the importance of vaccination. However, we are seeing more cases in the younger year groups where vaccination levels are lower. If your child is 12 years old or more and has not yet had a vaccination, this is something to consider. If you would like to learn more about the vaccination programme for children aged 12 and over, or if you would like to find out how to book a vaccination, [please use this link](#).

Principal: Mr L Collins
Network Associate Principal: Mr J Scafe



Finally, ESCC has asked schools to consider any Christmas events and whether they should go ahead as planned. Given that Covid levels are very low, we anticipate holding our Christmas events in person. However, if Covid levels increase and we need to change our mind, we will let you know.

For your information, the Covid situation in school Friday was:

Year	Confirmed PCR Positive
7	1
8	2
9	3
10	3
11	6
Sixth form	1
Staff (Teaching)	3
Staff (non-Teaching)	2

Once again, thank you for the support that you have given us and for your continued confidence. I hope that you and your children had a very pleasant (if chilly) weekend.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liam Collins'.

Mr Liam Collins
Principal