



De La Salle
School

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22nd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Temporary Additional COVID Controls in School

As I mentioned yesterday, rates of COVID are increasing within the school, and in the local area. As a result, I met with Public Health Officials today to discuss what we can do, as a school, to keep everyone safe and try to ensure education continues uninterrupted.

In the meeting, though I was encouraged to hear our rates are lower than many schools, there was still concern that our numbers were increasing, in particular with Year 10 students. Therefore, it was felt that the school could continue to remain functioning largely as normal, but with **the following additional controls from tomorrow morning:**

- **Face Coverings to be 'strongly recommended'** for all staff and students in communal areas e.g. corridors (of course usual exemptions will still apply and staff and students are also welcome to wear face coverings at any other time). Staff will be able to provide students with a face covering if they do not have one.
- Increasing levels of cleaning, with particular focus upon Year 10 areas.
- Dining room queuing to be by year group for break times (it already is for dinner times)
- Parents are encouraged to avoid coming onsite, unless absolutely necessary, and to wear a face covering if they do. (The same applies to contractors and other external visitors)
- Parents to maintain social distance if collecting or dropping students off.
- Assemblies to take place virtually rather than in-person.
- Encourage twice weekly testing at home (test kits are available from testing centres or can be given to your child in school if you request them).

Initially these additional controls will be **in place for the next 2 weeks** and our rates of infection will be monitored during that time. Should rates continue to rise, then further controls will need to be implemented, including onsite testing of students.

However, with your support in implementing these controls, we hope they will help reduce infection rates and the very positive start to this school year can be maintained.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher