



September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to inform you that, like many other secondary schools in the area, we are seeing increased numbers of positive COVID-19 cases in school.

NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact.

However, we feel that it is important to also continue to inform you if there are a number of positive cases within the school community.

### **What should I do now?**

Individuals below the age of 18 years and 6 months who are identified as close contacts do not need to self-isolate. This means that children can still attend school unless they develop symptoms or they themselves test positive.

We would encourage close contacts to book a PCR test, (although if your child has received a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days they should not book a test, unless they develop any new symptoms). If you have received a close contact notification from the NHS, you will have been advised to do this. If, however, your child is aware that they have been in close contact with another student who has told them they have tested positive and you have not yet received an NHS notification, we would suggest they take a PCR test (these can be booked via the NHS website).

Regular lateral flow testing can also help identify individuals with COVID-19 who are not displaying any symptoms. All secondary school pupils and staff are strongly encouraged to continue to test themselves twice a week, on a Sunday and Wednesday evening. If the lateral flow test comes back positive, they should stay at home and get a PCR test. Please report lateral flow test results to the NHS [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and to school <https://forms.office.com/r/pmchabr5YU> on Sundays and Wednesdays. This helps us to keep the school community safe.

### **If a child develops COVID Symptoms**

If your child has any of these three COVID-19 symptoms, even if mild, your child must self-isolate and book a (PCR) test as soon as possible:

- a high temperature (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- a new, continuous cough
- lost the sense of smell or taste or it's changed





Please keep school informed of absences ([attendance-dept@harrogatehighschool.co.uk](mailto:attendance-dept@harrogatehighschool.co.uk)) and test results.

If the PCR result is negative, then students can return to school as long as they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms. If the PCR is positive, then pupils must self-isolate for 10 days. This will be confirmed by NHS Test & Trace.

### **Reintroduction of face coverings in communal areas**

Due to the higher prevalence amongst the 11-16 age group in the local area, we have taken the decision to temporarily reintroduce face coverings for students in busier communal areas (corridors, dining hall unless eating, assemblies, etc.). We will keep this regularly under review and will update parents/carers as appropriate.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs L Greenwood**  
Head of School

