



November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that your family enjoyed some quality time over the half-term break and that those who have been unwell are recovering and will be back in school with us very soon. Please continue to let us know of any absences in the usual way, by phone or emailing Attendance-Department@harrogatehighschool.co.uk.

We continue to ask students and staff to wear face coverings in busy, communal areas (corridors, assembly, dining hall when not eating/drinking). Please ensure your child has a face covering each day unless they are formally exempt. We are conscious that cases of COVID-19 are still rising and regular handwashing and use of face coverings remain highly effective in preventing the spread of the virus.

The Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire recently advised schools that the number of cases in our hospitals and care homes has increased significantly and we all need to do what we can to reduce the transmission of the virus with winter approaching. Twice-weekly lateral flow testing for students and staff is a highly effective method of doing this, so I would remind you of the need for this, particularly at the present time. The school office has plenty of testing kits and more will be sent home soon. If you have previously given consent for home testing, please ensure your child tests on Wednesday and Sunday evenings and report the results of the test to the NHS ([Report a rapid lateral flow test result - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)) and to HHS via the [online form](#). This helps us to identify asymptomatic cases and stop the spread of the virus. Remember that close contacts of cases of COVID-19 do not need to isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated but should get a PCR test to check if they have the virus, wear a face covering and socially distance wherever possible. As communicated before half-term, we do not yet have a confirmed date for the 12-15 vaccinations, but you can book a vaccination out of school for your child via the NHS booking service [here](#) or by calling 119.

Please remember that students **must not attend school if they are symptomatic or have tested positive for COVID-19**. A negative lateral flow home test does NOT mean that the virus is not present if you have symptoms. **If your child has symptoms, they must isolate and take a PCR test to check if they have the virus.**

We have been working on our systems to facilitate a more straightforward mechanism for setting up class groups in Teams, and I am pleased to tell you that we are now once again able to offer remote live lessons (via Teams) to all year groups **if students are isolating**. Students should log in to Teams (as they have done previously) if they are well enough to join lessons and should see invitations to classes in their Teams calendar. Teachers have been asked to invite students to join their lessons unless the





lesson is highly practical in nature, and this would not be beneficial. In the event that joining the lesson live is not appropriate, the class teacher will email students work to complete (therefore checking their school email account regularly is vital). Please note that core PE lessons will not involve a Teams lesson and students (if well enough) should try to do some physical activity at home during these lessons. If your child has any problems accessing Teams or their email, they can contact help@harrogatehighschool.co.uk for support or telephone school reception. Please do be mindful that teachers are working hard to use this blended approach and it may not always go without a hitch – the important thing is that students can try to keep up whilst isolating.

Yours faithfully

Greenwood

Mrs L Greenwood
Head of School

