

13 October 2021

Dear Families,

Since the start of term, and in line with national guidance, we have been pleased to have been able to reduce the number of precautions we had previously been taking in relation to Covid-19.

We have been closely monitoring the number of staff and students testing positive for Covid-19 and, whilst numbers still remain relatively low, we have in recent days noticed an increase in positive cases, particularly amongst our Year 8 students where we have 14 cases.

As a result, we have been in touch with Public Health England today to discuss the most appropriate steps to safeguard our whole school community. Whilst our overall levels are still low, and well below the national average, PHE recommends that we re-introduce additional measures with immediate effect to help to suppress further transmission of the virus, for the remainder of this half term:

- From Thursday 14 October, all **Year 8** students who are not exempt should wear a face mask in classrooms and all indoor communal areas – except in the café when they are sitting down to eat and drink. There is currently no requirement for them to wear face masks outdoors.
- We will remind **all students** of the importance of maintaining good hand hygiene and washing their hands regularly. Hand sanitisers are still available in communal areas and classrooms, additionally you may wish to send your child in with a hand sanitiser of their own.

Twice-weekly lateral flow testing

After a review at the end of September, the Government is still stating that students in **all years** continue to take twice-weekly lateral flow tests. We have ordered additional test kits from PHE and will let families know when these are available for students to collect if you have run out. Should students require additional test kits in the meantime, these can be ordered online or collected from a range of locations, including libraries, doctor's surgeries and pharmacies. All positive test results should be reported to the academy via the school absence line or attendance@themisbourne.co.uk

As a reminder for everyone, **all test results**, whether negative or positive, should be recorded on the government website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Further information from Public Health England about the steps you should take if your child receives a positive lateral flow test result is available [here](#).

The Misbourne continues to be a Good School:

“A culture of ambition permeates the school; students are at the heart of everything the school does”

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Thank you for your co-operation. We hope that by introducing these measures swiftly now, we can mitigate the spread of the virus and enable as many students as possible to remain at school.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Jo Meloni
Headteacher

