



Dear Parent/Carer,

You are no doubt aware of the significant changes nationally regarding the way we all now approach isolation following someone testing positive for Covid-19.

Last year was a very difficult one for education with students being asked to isolate for long periods, sometimes on multiple occasions and however good remote learning is, nothing can ever match the experience of being in school with peers learning in the right environment.

It is clear that the government are committed to keeping schools open and reducing any time our young people have to be away from school. To that end I just wanted to take a moment to help reclarify where we are currently, how things have gone so far this term and how we can all play a part in keeping things moving forward.

When we returned, we tested all consenting students twice and this yielded an incredibly small amount of positive tests, less than 5 out of a possible 2286 tests. That meant that we started the year feeling confident that cases were as contained as possible. As time has gone on we have seen a slow increase in cases as was expected as we as a society and certainly as a school started to mix once more. What has been and will continue to be essential in this process is the need to keep testing at home to spot positive cases before people can accidentally pass Covid on. It remains the case that young people are by and large unaffected by the symptoms of Covid-19 and can often display no symptoms at all. By testing every Wednesday and Sunday, your child really does play an incredibly important role in helping to keep each other safe. All students should have sufficient tests (please contact school if you do not) and we encourage everyone to submit their results to our Microsoft form <https://bit.ly/MalCV19results> and the NHS testing results site <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> so we can monitor testing levels accurately.

Key reminders of the process:

If your child tests positive:

- Please complete the forms but also email or phone the school to tell us as soon as possible. This can be done via INSIGHT, email or contacting the relevant Key Stage or using our automated absence line.
- Book a PCR test for the student. Please tell us of the result of this test as soon as you can.
- If the student who tested positive on their home test is negative on PCR, they can return to school.
- Book precautionary PCR tests for other family members. Siblings can still attend school and double vaccinated adults should still be able to attend work.
- It is reasonable for a sibling to be off school to get this PCR test.

Headteacher: John D. Harrison B.A. (Hons.)

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Web site: www.malbank.com



Malbank School and Sixth Form College



Rejoice in being the best that we can be

- NHS test and trace will also be in touch to discuss contacts and isolation periods for the positive case.
- We advise that family members should consider taking daily home LFT tests, even in the event of a negative PCR to ensure that they are not still in the incubation period. These can be accessed through your GP surgery.

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If someone in the house tests positive:

- Book a PCR test for all family members including the student at Malbank. Contact school to make us aware this is happening and please tell us of the result of this test as soon as you can. This can be done via INSIGHT, email or contacting the relevant Key Stage or using our automated absence line.
- It is reasonable for a student to be off school to get this PCR test.
- We advise that the student should consider taking daily LFT tests in the event of a negative PCR to ensure that they are not still in the incubation period. Please ask for more LFT home tests for the student if you do not have enough.

We have been delighted with the response to testing and how hard people have been working to keep it up over the last few months to keep everyone safe. We need to keep this process working to limit the spike in cases that we have seen in Cheshire over the last 10 days and to ensure that we can continue to keep our children safe, but keep them learning where they learn best – here with us.

Thanks as always for your continued support,

John Harrison
Headteacher

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