



Malbank School and Sixth Form College



Rejoice in being the best that we can be

14th January 2022

Changes to COVID guidance for students from the local authority and at national level.

Good afternoon,

Following a review after the first two weeks back at school, Cheshire East Public Health have decided to remove their additional requirement for students to isolate at home for 5 days if they are a household contact.

From Monday 17th of January, any student at Malbank who is a household contact of a family member who has tested positive for COVID may now still attend school. Rather than staying at home for 5 days, they will instead be asked to complete lateral flow tests for 7 days from the point when the family member tests positive for COVID. Any student currently isolating for 5 days as per the old guidance can return on Monday as long as their LFT is negative.

Naturally, if a student themselves tests positive, they should stay at home and isolate for 5 days in line with new national guidance announced on Thursday 13th of January. To be able to return to school following their own positive COVID test, students will need to have a negative LFT on days 5 and 6 (day 6 being the morning of the day they can return to school). For clarity, the day symptoms begin or you test positive is day zero. The next day is day one of your isolation period. You can take your first test on day five. If it is negative, you can take another test 24 hours later on day six. Assuming this is also negative - and you do not have a temperature - you can immediately leave isolation. Anyone continuing to test positive must wait until they test negative or have completed 10 days of isolation. After this point students can return even if they continue to test positive.

I appreciate the changing picture of rules and regulations regarding COVID can be frustrating, but the move nationally to reduce isolation to 5 days and the local authority decision to fall in line with national guidance for household contacts is a great step towards a more consistent education for our young people, meaning the likelihood of them having to stay away from school due to COVID is significantly less likely than it has been at any point in the pandemic.

Thanks as always for your support in following the guidance every step of the way since this situation began. May I also take the chance to praise the students on their outstanding approach to wearing masks once again. This is not something anyone in schools wished to see return, but our students have handled it superbly and we await the national review of COVID rules on January 26th to see whether any further changes will be made.

Yours,

Mr Harrison
Headteacher