



Head Teacher:
Martin Hill B.Sc. Hons, NPQH
Chester Road, Helsby,
Frodsham WA6 0HY
Tel: 01928 723 551
Email: head@helsbyhigh.org.uk
www.helsbyhigh.org.uk

29th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been a feature of the pandemic that things take a turn for the worse very quickly and then get better relatively slowly. Only last Thursday I was talking to colleagues about how we might be able to reconsider some of our Covid measures after Christmas if our current very low number of positive cases stayed the same for the rest of this term. Only 3 days later I am contacting you to let you know about the re-introduction of a measure which I am sure students hoped they wouldn't have to go back to again ...

Face-Coverings

We were informed yesterday (Sunday) afternoon that all students, staff and visitors in secondary schools are once again expected to wear face-coverings in corridors and other communal areas (such as the Dining Hall) following the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in the UK. They are also to be worn on public and dedicated school transport, but are not required in classrooms at this time. Students will be informed of this by their tutors this morning and then we will expect students to wear face-coverings from Tuesday onwards, unless they are exempt. Exempt students can wear the sunflower lanyard previously provided to them - please use the contactportal@helsbyhigh.org e-mail address to let us know of any new exemptions (which of course will include any of our Year 7 students who are exempt from face-covering wearing). The review of this measure will be in 3 weeks' time and so it will be in place until the end of this term in the first instance.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing

It is clearly as important as ever that students participate in the twice-weekly LFD testing programme. Thank you for continuing to encourage and support our students to test on Monday and Thursday mornings.

On-Site LFD Testing

We were informed on Friday afternoon that students are to take one LFD test in school at the start of the Spring Term. Further details to follow on these tests, which will take place on Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th and Friday 7th January, although at present there has been no suggestion that a 'staggered' start to the new term will be required (unlike at the start of this term back in September).

Parent Governor Election

A reminder that the deadline for votes to be submitted to the ballot box in the Main Reception is 9am tomorrow (Tuesday) morning.

Sixth Form Applications

A reminder to Year 11 students and parents that the application window for joining our Sixth Form in September 2022 is now open (see [Sixth Form Subjects - Helsby High School](#) for more information and [6th-Form-External-Application-2022-2023-Master-remote-version-Jan-2022.pdf \(helsbyhigh.org.uk\)](#) for an application form). Applications are encouraged as soon as possible so that we can take students' subject choices into account when constructing our school timetable for the 2022-23 academic year.

Parking Outside School

We have been asked to share the following with parents from our local PCSOs: "Following a meeting with staff at Netherton Hall earlier this afternoon and a near miss accident involving a Helsby High School pupil last Wednesday afternoon, people dropping off or collecting children from school are requested not to park in the pub car park." Thank you for your co-operation with this request.

Staff Farewell

Sadly, we said farewell on Friday to Mrs James, who has moved on to the role of PEP (Personal Education Plan) Lead for Secondary Children in Care with Halton Borough Council. Mrs James taught at Helsby for over 18 years and had different roles in the school in that time, most latterly as Teacher of Chemistry. Students and colleagues alike will miss Mrs James' caring and thoughtful approach to her work and her willingness to support them as much as possible. We wish Mrs James all the very best for the future and also welcome Dr Sayan to the school, who has joined the Science department following Mrs James' departure.

Best wishes,

Martin Hill
Headteacher