



08 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## COVID UPDATE

You may have seen on the news the difficult situations many schools are currently facing regarding outbreaks of Covid, particularly affecting staffing levels in areas of high infection. We have been exceptionally fortunate so far and our infection rate among students is very low and stable, with less than 1% of students confirmed as having Covid. At the time of writing, we have four members of staff off with Covid, only one of these is a teaching member of staff.

However, this is a moving picture and things can change rapidly. We are doing everything we can to ensure the provision for students is uninterrupted by staff absence but there are days when absence rates are high, due to childcare or illnesses such as colds and flu, and supply agencies have run out of staff. Therefore, on occasion, we may need to combine classes or ask older students to work independently within school, thus freeing up staff to cover younger classes. We will always keep this to an absolute minimum but our priority is the safety of the community and keeping students in school learning face to face. As I confirmed last week, the Year 9 trip to Plymouth University tomorrow and Year 11 Work Experience next week, will still go ahead.

I am grateful for your continued support and understanding.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J Veal'.

Mrs J Veal  
Executive Head teacher