



St. Thomas More
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy, Palace Fields, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6AF Headteacher: Mr D Redfern

25th June 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Rates of Covid-19 continue to increase across the country, particularly in the age group 10-19. Many of my colleagues in other schools are reporting positive cases in their cohorts and are having to close bubbles in order to prevent further transmission. Whilst positive cases of Covid-19 remain stable in the Buxton area, we are aware that surrounding areas are seeing a worrying increase in cases.

In May, I was able to modify our risk assessment and remove the need for children to wear face coverings in the corridors and classrooms. I was able to do this on the justification that staff and pupils can self-test at home using the twice weekly lateral flow tests (LFT). This week I have been notified by authorities that the number of tests being completed at home by students has significantly fallen over the last few weeks. This means that the risk of covid-19 transmission in school increases for pupils, staff and their families.

I am hoping that pupils are self-testing at home, but not registering their tests with the NHS, causing this anomaly in the data. If this is the case, please ensure that test results are logged with the NHS by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. With an account, this process should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. It can also be completed using a mobile phone.

If it is the case that the majority of our pupils are not self-testing twice a week, then I have a problem which I need to deal with in order to keep people safe in school and at home. If the reported number of tests does not increase, I will have to reintroduce face coverings for all pupils inside the classroom and the corridors. This is not the outcome that I would want for the children, but am compelled to do in order to uphold health and safety.

Please can I ask all parents and carers to support the school in this initiative. We have done so well as a school and as a community to keep the school open to all pupils this academic year, an astonishing achievement considering the significant impact this pandemic has had on education. Together, with a collective sense of responsibility, we can continue to do what is best for our children.

Many thanks for your support,

Mr D Redfern
Headteacher

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NOTTINGHAM

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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust