

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

We are all looking forward to the half-term holiday after a busy start to the Spring term. Students have been remarkable considering the disruption caused by student and staff Covid absences. Hopefully as we approach Easter the impact of Covid will reduce and we can get back to a more normal school environment. We will continue to ensure the safest environment possible in school to support all our students and try to minimise further disruption as we approach year 11 examinations in May and June.

During the COVID Outbreak Management Plan at Wellfield, students and staff have supported safety protocols wearing face coverings in social areas and where social distancing is not possible. This, along with continued lateral flow testing, hand hygiene measures and controlled entry and exit to school through five separate areas, has helped us to remain as safe as possible. High quality teaching and learning has continued during the Autumn and Spring term in the most difficult of circumstances. As we return following the half term break, we will continue to require staff and students to wear face coverings whilst inside the building and on school transport, and continue twice weekly testing. We will review this at the end of the first week back.

The government's updated ['Living with COVID-19'](#) guidance states that COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains. We will continue to have a supply of test kits available for students in-line with local public health advice, in relation to the outbreak. Test kits are available from the school Main Reception, your local pharmacy or online as we prioritise maintaining a safe learning environment for all.

On Thursday 24th February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. However, to avoid further disruption to learning in school students that test positive are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. Evidence of a positive test should be sent into school to ensure that students' absence is correctly coded.

As we look forward to Easter, we are reaffirming our commitment to high standards in school. Regarding our ethos and values at Wellfield can I ask for your continued support. We have a clear uniform policy (see attached). We also have thorough detailed policies for appearance, behaviour and attendance which supports teaching and learning. We are a high achieving school and will continue to ensure students not in correct uniform are challenged. We are proud of the fact that Wellfield students are amongst the smartest in County Durham. Standards really do matter. We will continue to work tirelessly to support all students with clear guidance on behaviour and attendance expectations because we want all children to enjoy school and make good progress in a happy caring and safe learning environment.

Please contact school if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully



Gary Potts  
Acting Headteacher