

# Be Your Best Self

22nd October 2021



Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

I hope you enjoyed reading our latest newsletter which was published yesterday [\[HERE\]](#)

## Covid-19 Control Measures In School

As mentioned in the HT update on 14th October 2021, we are continuing to review our position regarding the number of confirmed Covid-19 positive cases in the school community in consultation with the North Yorkshire Public Health Team. Our key priority is to work within the bounds of the current government guidance for schools to ensure all students and staff are safe and supported whilst ensuring the school stays fully open.

Staff absence as a result of Covid-19, in addition to absence for other health reasons, has meant that we have had daily challenges fully staffing the school to keep it open for all students. The teacher cover agencies we use continue to report unprecedented shortages of staff. Since the start of the Autumn term, many specialist staff in school have been voluntarily covering extra classes in addition to their normal contracted duties and teaching timetables to ensure continuity of education on a daily basis. I wish to thank all staff again for this selfless commitment to the school.

### HOW FAMILIES CAN SUPPORT THE SCHOOL TO REMAIN FULLY OPEN

#### Face Coverings

Thank you again for your support with our move to wearing face coverings in communal areas and in classrooms. **We are still noticing that a significant number of students are not arriving at school with their own face covering.** We cannot provide face coverings as a matter of routine in



school and are looking to families to support us with this. This is an essential control measure to help minimise the risk of Covid-19 transmission in school and on school transport.

After taking advice from the North Yorkshire Public Health Team, please note that we will be continuing to strongly support the wearing of face coverings in school (communal areas and classrooms) until at least Friday 12th November 2021.

### Home COVID-19 Testing

Asymptomatic Covid-19 lateral flow device testing should continue at home on a Wednesday and Sunday evening. Positive results should be reported immediately via the school website [HERE](#).

Following a positive PCR result please email [attendance@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:attendance@tgs.starmat.uk) with the date your child can return to school. This date is the one that track and trace inform you of when your child can come out of self isolation.

Late yesterday we were contacted by the Department for Education (DfE) asking for the following information to be shared with parents, carers and students

### Home Covid-19 testing (DfE update)

## COVID-19 tests - what's the difference?



Rapid lateral flow tests



PCR tests

	Rapid lateral flow tests	PCR tests
When do I take them?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twice a week - if you have no symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After an NHS Test and Trace alert</li> <li>• After a positive rapid test</li> <li>• Or if you have symptoms</li> </ul>
Do I send them away for processing?	No	Yes
When do I get the results?	Up to 30 minutes	24 - 72 hours
Where do I get one?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online</li> <li>• Test sites</li> <li>• Call 119</li> <li>• Participating pharmacies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online</li> <li>• Test sites</li> <li>• Call 119</li> </ul>

### The 12 to 15 year old vaccination programme (DfE update)

NHS England will soon offer 12 to 15 year olds the opportunity to get their COVID-19 vaccine out-of-school, such as through vaccination centres. This offer will run in parallel to the in-school vaccination programme.

Parents of children aged 12 to 15 will receive a letter from the NHS with more information on the vaccination programme, including information about how to book an appointment out-of-school, if this option is preferred.

At this time, we are still awaiting contact from the NHS concerning the timeline for the in-school Covid-19 vaccination programme and details about the school's role in facilitating it.

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I hope you have a great half-term break.

Kind regards,

**Andrew Parkinson**  
**Headteacher**