



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



28 February 2022

Dear Parents

I hope you all had a restful half term. Clearly events in Ukraine have proved extremely unsettling to us all and, no doubt, have been a topic of conversation within families over the last few days. I will be setting the historical context of the conflict in assemblies this week to all year groups; we do not want students to be worried about the conflict but clearly a broad understanding of the significance of what is happening is important. It has brought home to us the stark realities of war which have always existed, but at a seemingly much safer and contained distance.

On another matter, one which has dominated our lives for the past 24 months, I would like to update you on gov.uk's 'living with covid' plan. From 24 February the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test was removed. The provision of free testing is also scheduled to end at the end of March and students are no longer advised to test twice each week.

As a result, RGS requests that parents and students adopt the following gov.uk recommendations for covid infections:

- Remain at home for 5 days following a positive test [if undertaken] and return to school when 2 LF tests - taken on day 5 and 6 or thereafter up to 10 days- are negative.
- Notify reception each day that your child is at home [as normal practice] making it clear whether he/she is ill [in which case cannot undertake school work] or well enough but isolating and thus able to undertake remote work. This will allow teachers to coordinate work being set through Teams.

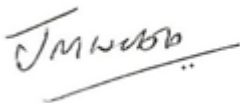
A couple of points also to note:

- The school still has some limited supplies of LF tests which can be provided on request. However, it seems unlikely that we will be provided with any additional supplies, so clearly at some point it will not be possible for students to test at home using school kits, and therefore no way of knowing whether a student has covid or not, unless a test is paid for by parents.
- Please may I also remind parents that for any illness, a student should not be sending email requests to teachers asking for work missed while away. All students should follow the usual protocol which is to rest until better and, on return to school, ask the teacher in person about work missed in lessons. They should then catch up in the usual way. Teachers do not have the time to respond to individual requests via email but will happily update a student on return.

- The only exception to this is for illness due to covid, where symptoms are limited enough to allow work from home and which comes under the current legal provision of remote education. At present this has not been repealed by gov.uk. Work will be provided on Teams and students should not need to request work by email.

All other covid measures remain in place, ie deployment of CO2 monitors, open windows, hand sanitiser stations etc. Face masks remain the personal choice of students and staff.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J M Webb', with a horizontal line underneath and two small dots at the end of the line.

Jonathan M Webb
Headmaster