



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
Emmanuel Schools Foundation

22 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

All schools in Gateshead have been contacted by our local Public Health team who are becoming increasingly concerned about the sustained rise in cases across the borough. We are particularly seeing a marked increase in school-age children in Gateshead, although cases at Emmanuel College appear to be lower than in some schools. In response to this we have been asked to take proactive steps to reduce the spread of infection, bring cases down, and minimise the risk of further disruption to education.

Our priority remains to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to-face education and minimise any disruption. However, we share the view of Public Health that this cannot be achieved without considering additional measures to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. Consequently, from 1 November 2021, we shall be reintroducing a number of preventive measures which we believe will ensure that our young people can continue to receive education in as normal a way as possible. Details can be found below. Please speak with your children about this and ensure that they are prepared to adhere to these measures without difficulty.

Face coverings. One of the simplest measures that we are being asked to reintroduce is the requirement to wear face coverings in all indoor communal areas in College. This is a requirement for all staff and students unless they are exempt. Students are not being required to wear face coverings in lessons.

Co-curricular activities. We are committed to doing as much as we can in the co-curriculum. To enable us to maintain as full a provision as possible whilst keeping in step with guidance from Public Health, we shall be pausing the co-curricular programme for one week from 1-6 November and restructuring some activities so that, where possible, year groups do not mix. Students will spend activities time with their tutor group during this week and will be informed by the end of the week about which activities they will be involved in the week after and until the end of term.

Movement around College. We already have rules in place which mean that there is very little contact between year groups during the day and when leaving the site. We shall be making a few small changes which will further reduce the times when different year groups mix with each other. Students will be informed about these when they return.

Larger gatherings in College. We shall endeavour to ensure that, apart from at lunchtime, students are not in groups indoors of larger than 30. As such, we shall return to lectures being broadcast to classrooms and do the same at the end of the week for College Celebration. However, I'd like to reassure parents that currently students will continue to move to their classes and will not remain in the same class throughout the day.

Reminders for students. We will continue to remind students that we should all be keeping our distance, avoiding physical contact at all times and maintaining good hand hygiene as well as carrying out home testing twice each week.

We remain committed to doing as much as we can whilst taking on board advice from the local Public Health team. As such, we shall keep these arrangements under review and evaluate our approach to other activities including our parent Welcome Evenings and this term's College events, letting you know our conclusions in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Waterfield
Principal