



Dear Parents and Carers,

10th January 2022

We had a really positive start to the term with an excellent training day for staff on Tuesday. We focussed in this on curriculum development, reading and relationships, and thought hard together about how we are continuing to ensure our school moves forward and develops amongst all of the backdrop of uncertainty. We then hosted our in school testing, which was a huge team effort of every member of school staff spending time working on testing - it certainly is something we would never have expected a couple of years ago, but it was done with a great team spirit. Students were excellent, testing like experts! It was lovely to see them and welcome them back fully to school on Thursday.

We have adapted well to mask wearing. It isn't the most comfortable experience, but again students have been excellent and resilient. I wanted to just emphasise again twice weekly lateral flow testing. We send home tests for all students, and even those who have had COVID recently are encouraged to test twice per week. We picked up 4 positive tests in our test centre which was lower than I expected, but it is expected that as we are back to school there will be more cases, and testing regularly allows us all to pick up any asymptomatic cases. It is also advised to test daily if you are a close contact of someone with confirmed COVID.

There has been a change to the expectations for PCR testing and the link to these expectations is below. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/confirmatory-pcr-tests-to-be-temporarily-suspended-for-positive-lateral-flow-test-results>

In summary

1. Anyone with symptoms should still isolate and have a PCR test.
2. Anyone who tests positive on a lateral flow without symptoms should isolate and does not need to have a PCR to confirm the case.

When you report to us please can you try to indicate what the circumstances are - if your child has symptoms or not, as we have to code attendance differently depending on the circumstance.

This week was a big week for Year 11 students as we gave out their mock results, we have Parents evening for Year 11 on Thursday and look forward to seeing lots of parents online for this.

Our theme of the half term is our value of Optimism and I remain cautiously optimistic about what is ahead. Please keep in touch with us and let us know if you have any concerns at all.

With my best wishes,

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

Unity Schools Partnership is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07400386. The registered office is at Unity SP Offices, Park Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7YD.



Castle Manor Academy
Eastern Avenue
Haverhill
Suffolk CB9 9JE

Tel: 01440 705501
Fax: 01440 714050
Email: info@castlemanor.org.uk
Website: www.castlemanor.org.uk