

# Carwarden House Community School

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Headteacher: Tim Stokes



small community **thinking big**

20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

## Revised COVID-19 protective measures for next half-term

Since the beginning of this term we have seen a continual rise in confirmed cases of COVID-19 here in school. To date we have had 13 students confirmed as positive (5 in Y7, 3 in Y8, 2 in Y10 & 3 in Y11) and 4 staff (3 in the main school and 1 in 6<sup>th</sup> Form). This far exceeds the total number of confirmed cases in the period March 2020 to July 2021.

This is hardly surprising given the relaxation in restrictive measures nationally (particularly those relating to isolation rules) and far more mixing both in and out of school. You are probably aware that the number of cases has again risen sharply across the country but more noticeably in our region. As our cases have risen we have implemented our outbreak management plan and reported to and sought advice from the DfE and Public Health England.

The number of confirmed cases is obviously having a detrimental impact on student attendance but also potentially having a negative impact on their learning (even though our remote education offer is available for all students who are isolating from the first day they are off school).

**From the 1<sup>st</sup> November we will be re-introducing some of the measures we had last academic year** that helped us dramatically reduce the infection rates and associated risks to our community. These measures are in-line with the Education Contingency Framework:

- Face coverings / masks will be worn by all students & staff in all indoor areas outside of their classroom.
- All students & staff are required to wear face coverings on school & public transport.
- We will look to reduce 'crowding' and unnecessary mixing and allow for additional space between staff & students.

- Assemblies and eating lunch in the dining hall will be limited to single year groups only (students will return to routinely eating lunch in their classroom).
- Year groups will once again be allocated their own dedicated areas in the playground.
- We will continue to LFT test every student in school twice weekly but where there is a confirmed case, testing will be increased to daily.
- Whole staff & Trustee meetings will return to being held remotely.

**We would ask that you and your child continue to LFT test over half-term (at least twice and definitely on the day before they return).** Information about home testing kits is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

We will continue to carefully monitor infection rates but may well need to consider additional measures including:

- Limiting visits & trips off-site (particularly to indoor venues).
- Temporarily suspending live events in school.
- Limiting parental attendance in the school setting (holding remote meetings only again).
- Only on the advice of DfE & PHE, ask those identified as 'close contacts' of confirmed cases to isolate at home until they receive a negative PCR test result (please note this is not current guidance but may be required).

### **Fund raising this half-term**

I am delighted to report that as a result of our 'Hello Yellow' and 'Jeans for Genes' days this term, Carwarden has raised over £250 for these worthy charities. Great fun and well done everybody!

We are delighted too that a local Waitrose has donated £500 towards our ecology garden project. It was a real pleasure this week to accompany a group of Y10 students (along with Mrs. Wright who is leading on the project) to the store to be presented with a giant cheque. As ever, we are deeply grateful to individuals and organisations who generously support our community.

### **Farewell to long serving Governor**

It was with great sadness that we heard earlier that Bryn Edwards, one of our long serving Governors, died on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, the day after his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bryn worked with Carwarden for over 6 years and was a long-standing Chair of our Audit & Resources Committee. His extensive knowledge and experience of a wide variety of settings was invaluable to us and he will be remembered with genuine affection for his commitment to our school, his caring nature and sparkling sense of humour.

Kind regards,

Tim

T S Stokes  
Headteacher