

Principal: Simon Warburton



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8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on the effective mitigations we have in place at Ely College and Bishop Laney Sixth Form to ensure we provide as close to a “normal” educational experience as possible whilst at the same time keeping our community safe from Covid. We are still following the government guidance which can be found [here](#).

Since we returned in September, positive Covid cases have been diagnosed across our year groups but predominantly in Year 7. All children who have tested positive have returned to college, after their isolation period, eager to learn and enjoy time with their friends. Many of these positive cases have been identified through the regular use of rapid lateral flow testing which is proving to be an effective tool for identifying cases of Covid and ensuring that isolation takes place as soon as possible. We are still only averaging 43% of possible tests now so please continue to support our community by testing on Wednesday and Sunday evenings and recording your results on testregister.

You may be aware of the news story that broke yesterday stating that face coverings should be restored in schools and that some evening events should be cancelled. We took the decision to retain our Open Evening event as we had a robust risk assessment that reduced the risk to an acceptable level. I was thrilled with the turnout and the very high degree of compliance from visitors in respecting our COVID mitigations – we had a wonderful evening. However, it would not make sense to not adopt the position of encouraging the wearing of face coverings in corridors and communal spaces. As the weather starts to turn colder over the next few weeks, we will have more students resting indoors and there is the possibility that with prolonged face to face contact the virus might spread more effectively.

Therefore, from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October, we will be asking students to voluntarily wear face coverings as they move from lesson to lesson and in communal spaces when they are not eating. Students will be able to remove their coverings when they eat and when they are outside. We will not sanction students for not wearing coverings – this will be promoted by positive reinforcement. Face coverings will not be required in lessons.

We would like to continue with this additional measure until October half term where all mitigations will be reviewed.

We still intend to hold our Bishop Laney Open Evening on 20<sup>th</sup> October as the risk assessment we had in place for last night’s event will be perfectly adequate to make our Open Evening safe.

Yours faithfully

Simon Warburton  
Principal

