



The Forest High School

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Alan Dane Headteacher

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Happy New Year!

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Dear Forest High School families,

I am honoured and delighted to be the new Headteacher of The Forest High School.

We are now almost two years into the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges it has caused young people and the pressures it has placed on schools show no signs of easing any time soon. Our students' safety and wellbeing will always be my overwhelming priority. But I am determined that the challenges and pressures of the pandemic do not stop your children getting the best teaching, the best support and the best opportunities.

I have been a teacher for more than twenty years and Headteacher of two successful secondary schools, both of which I helped become popular with local families and inclusive of all students. I live in Cardiff with my husband, our two adopted children and our dog. My family are very important to me and inspire me every day. I am really looking forward to getting to know you all and working with you to make this the best school it can possibly be.

In the meantime, it is important that I share with you our plans for the start of term, in light of the most recent COVID-19 guidance from the Department for Education (DFE).

Testing and self-isolation

It was great to see so many students taking an LFT at the school today. The DFE would like students to continue testing twice weekly at home, reporting results to Test and Trace.

If your child has a positive lateral flow test result, they should not attend school and should take a PCR test as soon as possible. If their PCR result is negative, they can return to school. If the result is positive, they should self-isolate for 7 days, taking LFTs on days 6 and 7, then returning to school on day 8 if both of these were negative.

If a close contact of your child has a positive PCR result, your child should take an LFT every day for 7 days but continue to attend school, unless they get a positive result of develop COVID-19 symptoms at any time.

Please do keep us informed of any positive results by calling us on 01594 822257 or emailing info@foresthgigh.org.uk.



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Face coverings and ventilation

We will continue to expect students to wear a mask or other face covering in all indoor communal areas.

The DFE is also recommending that students wear a mask or face covering in classrooms and other teaching spaces, as a temporary measure which will be reviewed later in January. While we cannot require this, we are strongly advising it, so that every member of our community is playing their part in keeping us all safe and at school.

Windows in classrooms and other spaces will remain open throughout each day in order to provide ventilation that will reduce the spread of the virus. It will therefore be acceptable for students to wear coats in lessons.

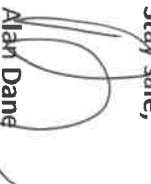
In light of the current uncertainty around infection, we will continue to allow students to wear PE kit to school on the days they have PE until further notice, but, as with all the Covid measures, we will keep this under review.

Other measures

We are looking at anything else we can do to protect students and staff while keeping the school open as much as possible. I will write to you with any updates on this as soon as I have them. Thank you in advance for all your support at this most challenging of times for all of us.

Once again, can I say how happy and honoured I am to be the Headteacher of the Forest High School. I look forward to meeting you all as soon as possible.

Stay safe,



Alan Dane
Headteacher



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