



25 February 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

### **SPRING TERM FEBRUARY 2022 UPDATES**

I hope that this email finds you and your families well.

It seems hard to believe but with the easing of restrictions, the possibility that we might come out of the pandemic is becoming a reality. The government released updated guidance for schools on Covid-19 and I wanted to give you a summary of what the changes are.

As of Thursday 24 February, it is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test and routine contact tracing has ended. The government has also removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

At Rooks Heath, we will continue with regular cleaning and ventilation to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within our school. We will also treat with care and caution any students who are symptomatic and unwell upon arrival to school in a similar approach to how we would other communicable illnesses with symptoms such as diarrhoea or vomiting.

Below is a summary of the updated guidance for schools around the coronavirus measures.

#### ***Self-isolation***

- Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days.
- Schools can use reasonable judgement to refuse a student if a parent or carer insists on a student with confirmed or suspected Covid attending school.
- Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be asked to test daily for seven days, and close contacts who are not fully vaccinated are longer be required to self-isolate.
- More details can be found in the [Living with Covid-19](#) plan.

#### ***Testing***

- All staff and students will continue to be able to access test kits from their local pharmacy or [online](#).
- Anyone with symptoms should take a PCR test, stay at home and follow government guidance if positive. People who have tested positive will continue to be advised to stay at home for five full days and then receive two negative test results on consecutive days before returning to their workplace or setting.
- Staff and students who test positive should use any test kits they already have at home to undertake testing on days five and six, before returning to school or college if they test negative. If they have run out, they should order additional test kits.



### **Remote education**

- Schools and colleges are only legally required to continue to provide remote learning in circumstances related to Covid-19 until 24<sup>th</sup> March. We will await further clarification, however, schools are asked to maintain "capacity to deliver high-quality remote education across this academic year, including for
- students who are abroad and facing challenges to return due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, for the period they are abroad".

From Friday 1 April, the government will no longer provide free to order universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England. The government will update guidance on the steps that people with Covid-19 should take to minimise contact with other people accordingly. We are receiving support from Harrow's Director of Public Health who will confirm the advice from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Please find a letter from Harrow here: [Changes to Covid 19 Regulations](#).

Our students face an ever-changing landscape with the developments of events around the world. You will no doubt be aware of the most recent conflict occurring involving Russia and the Ukraine. Please find below a message to our parents and carers from Mrs Geoghegan, our School Counsellor.

### **RECENT EVENTS IN THE UKRAINE**

Following on from the most recent news regarding events taking place in the Ukraine, we recognise that such events can be quite anxiety provoking for some of our young people. For some of them this may bring up similar thoughts and feelings that occurred when we were first faced with the idea of a pandemic; feelings of uncertainty, feeling powerless and fear of impending danger. These may show in physical signs common in anxiety; restlessness, being irritable, fatigue, headaches, and stomach aches.

When experiencing worries around significant events irrational fears may develop. As parents and carers, it is important to answer any questions our young people may have whilst considering their level of understanding. We would also encourage you to consider listening to the news when you are able to do this alone, to identify trusted sources of information and to avoid the young person listening to adult conversations about the events, as these can be misunderstood.

We shall endeavour to support our students as best as we can at this time.



### **EXAMINATION STUDENTS**

We have been working hard to implement intervention strategies and provide opportunities for our students to receive additional support from school staff. You will have received information about our tutoring programmes, after school booster and in-library support with support from members of the senior leadership team. It is vital that we have parental support to secure student engagement with all the information and that your children maximise on all we are offering to secure their very best outcomes. Everything is being offered





for free and students should be revising regularly both at home and by using the library space after school. If you know your child will benefit from after school study, please encourage them to attend the school library where they have access to the computers as well as a member of staff on hand to support.

It is especially important for these examination cohorts who have suffered disruption during their examination courses. Please continue to monitor the work and revision that your child is doing at home. This is the best possible way that your child will ensure they feel a sense of success and are rewarded with grades they deserve when they return to collect their results this summer.

At Rooks Heath, we take the safeguarding of our students very seriously and do our best to ensure a safe, nurturing environments for all to learn, work and thrive. Please continue to liaise with us should your child experience any difficulties at school, and we will do our best to help.

Finally, please find below some upcoming useful reminders:

**Key Dates:**

Please note the following dates for information:

- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Year 8 Options Interviews
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March PTFA Quiz Night (7pm – 9pm)
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March Year 10 Striving to Be Your Best evening
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April End of Spring term
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April Start of Summer term

Yours sincerely

Mrs Miriam Manderson  
**Headteacher**