



18 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The new Year 11 and current Y12 have had a brilliant week and coped amazingly well with their first set of exams in preparation for next year. The vast majority of students have taken these exams very seriously, arrived on time for every exam with the correct equipment and followed the exam rules to the letter. We are very proud of them after such a disrupted year. With no concrete guidance from the government or the exam boards we have decided that we should prepare as if the exams next year will be the same as in 2019 (prior to Covid). As soon as we have information about the exams in 2022 we will let relevant parents/carers know.

The new canteen system seems to be working well. If you have any concerns please let us know so that we can make any improvements that are necessary.

We have been reviewing our Covid security measures since the announcement on Monday that final restrictions will not be lifted until the 19<sup>th</sup> July. We are comfortable with the measures we are taking in terms of minimising risks for everyone in our school community.

However, we should remain mindful of the fact that numbers in our area are growing again and we have risen above the national average. We will remain very strict on the following:

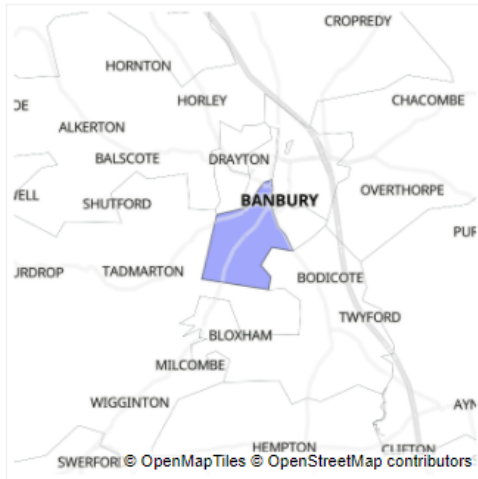
- **Ventilation of classrooms**
- **Wearing of face coverings in communal areas**
- **Use of the new one way system in the Stanbridge building to avoid bubbles mixing**

It is of note that Chipping Campden School has had to close completely due to a cluster of cases and we want to avoid this happening in our community.

The latest data is shown in the graphic below.



## OX16 9HY – Banbury Easington



### People tested positive by specimen date

Seven days to 12 June 2021

**10**

Rate per 100,000 people: **119.0**

How does this compare to UK average?



### Lateral flow tests

Please make sure that you support your children to take their lateral flow test twice a week.

### Consent and sexting

You will all have seen on the news information about the Ofsted review into sexual abuse in schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsteds-review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges>

As part of our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum and our response to this issue we are doing an education piece next Friday during a drop down lesson. We are aware of a number of historical and recent instances within our school community where students have been the victims or perpetrators of sexual abuse and received or sent inappropriate images. We are conscious that the session may make others realise that they too have been victims or have behaved inappropriately. We are therefore going to make welfare support available after period 1 for anyone who needs to share their experiences with us. It may also be the case that children go home to you and over the weekend divulge experiences which have been traumatic for them. We are not naïve. We know that sexting has almost become normalised now for some children. We do not accept that this is OK.

Childline can be accessed through

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/abuse-safety/sexual-abuse/> or on **0800 1111**

### Nose piercings

Thank you to those parents/carers who have supported us by buying small, discreet, transparent nose studs for their children. Whilst we were supportive in terms of changing our policy with regards to nose piercings we will NOT accept studs that can be seen clearly.

## Road safety

Several staff who have been out on duty up Ruskin Road have commented to me about the lack of road safety awareness of some of our student body. Please can you remind your children about their personal responsibility as pedestrians and cycle users. We worked hard with the local councillor to get the new pedestrian crossing installed and this has proved successful. However, Ruskin Road is very busy with parents dropping off children and local residents in cars and we want to ensure that we continue to promote excellent road awareness with all students.

## Dates for your diaries

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July Aspirations Days – focus on embracing diversity

8<sup>th</sup> July Year 7, 9 and new Year 11 parents' evenings with mentors

9<sup>th</sup> July Sports Day

Please note – there is no longer an INSET day on the 25<sup>th</sup> June as we have decided that we have already lost too much learning time over the last year and a bit.

Yours faithfully



Sylvia Thomas  
Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus