



From the Headmaster: Weekly update plus mask wearing from Monday 01/10/21

Dear Parents

I was delighted to be able to join the first of the Year 7 groups in the Lake District on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Despite the inclemency of the weather, (I have been told that Seatoller, within walking distance of Glaramara, is officially the wettest place in England,) it was wonderful to witness the happy engagement of our newest recruits to the senior school in a range of activities. We hope very much that this and other trips and visits will be able to continue through the year.

That said, I have to report that there has been a mini-surge in positive tests at Colfe's this week. Our experience is not isolated: it was clear from my conversations with fellow-heads at this week's HMC Conference in Wales that our experience is replicated elsewhere. We have therefore decided, with great regret, to **reintroduce the requirement to wear masks in the senior school for staff and pupils with effect from Monday**. Junior school teachers will also be required to wear masks in communal areas only although, as previously, this will not be a requirement for junior school pupils. We ask that all **junior school parents wear masks at drop off and pick up from Monday**. We may have to review other measures in due course.

On a related point we have now had contact from the local authority and the Oxleas health centre which will be administering vaccines to senior school pupils on the 11 October. Mrs Graham will be in touch with senior school parents about the vaccination procedure before the end of today.

Our overriding priority is now to get through the next two weeks to half term without serious disruption. I know that we can count on your support, as ever.

With thanks and best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster
