



GRACE COLLEGE

Emmanuel Schools Foundation

15 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As much as we would all like to move on from the pandemic, COVID is still with us. Infection rates in Gateshead and the local area are higher than the national average. It is really important that the students and staff keep taking the tests twice a week. We need to complete a lateral flow test on a Sunday and a Wednesday night. We gave home testing kits to the students last week. If your child needs one, please ask them to speak to the Year Team as we have spare kits available.

If anybody gets a positive result, they must book a PCR test. They need to stay off school until they get a negative PCR result. If the PCR result comes back as positive then the student will need to isolate for ten days. Test and trace will tell you what day the isolation starts and when your child can return to school. The other people in the household can continue to go to work/school unless they have symptoms or have also tested positive. If you live with someone who has tested positive you should take a lateral flow test and book a PCR test.

You should always take the advice of test and trace, as sometimes it may be different from the general advice, as they have more details about local infection rates and positive contacts.

Despite these challenging times our attendance is still above national average. Thank you for your support with this. We have been working with students on attendance since we returned in September. We identified a group of upper school students that have been struggling to attend school every day. After two weeks over half of these students had improved their attendance.

The Leadership Team is currently mentoring 60 students with attendance between 88-92% and we are hoping that all of them will show an improvement by the end of the half-term.

Next week is our Harvest Happiness challenge. Any student that is in everyday next week will get a voucher for a free cookie on Friday 22 October. I know that not every student likes cookies, but it is just a small token to recognise the student's achievement.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Maylin
Vice Principal

Mark Hall Principal

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