



August 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians

I hope that you are enjoying the summer break and that your daughter is looking forward to returning or joining us at MHSG in September. In order to make the start of term as smooth as possible, I wanted to provide you with information regarding the significant changes we are making to the School's processes and procedures in the light of the Government announcement regarding the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

In line with Department for Education guidance, there is no longer a requirement to have students remain in consistent groups or 'bubbles' from September and social distancing will no longer be a requirement of our students. Usual pre-COVID arrangements regarding lunches will resume, as will extra-curricular activities, school assemblies and the use of lockers. Students will also be expected to attend school in their school uniform every day. Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors – unless in enclosed and crowded spaces (such as on public or school transport). Please note the following further details:

Testing arrangements

We will send you a further letter regarding the testing of all students. Students will also be expected to continue to take two lateral flow tests per week so that we can do all that we can to identify students who are positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic. If your daughter tests positive on a lateral flow device, she should immediately isolate and seek a PCR test to confirm the positive result. If this PCR test is taken within **two days** of the lateral flow test and the result is negative, then your daughter can return to school. If the PCR result is positive, then she will need to isolate in line with NHS guidance.

If you need to report that your daughter has tested positive for COVID-19, please email us as soon as you have received the result at COVID19@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk. In any such email, it would be very helpful if you could also inform us **if and when** your daughter began to experience COVID-19 related symptoms.

Attendance expectations

We are expecting all of our students to return to school unless they are unwell or because of an issue relating to COVID-19. For example, your daughter should **not** come into school if she:

- has COVID-19 symptoms (including a new and continuous cough or high temperature, or a loss of or change in the normal sense of taste and smell)
- has tested positive for COVID-19
- is self-isolating because of quarantining advice

Please click [here](#) for further stay at home guidance.

Empowering Girls since 1874

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Transport

All students who use school bus services should adhere to the bus code of conduct. There is also the recommendation that, as your daughter may come into contact with people she does not usually meet while travelling on the bus, she should wear a face covering during her journey.

Contact Tracing

If your daughter tests positive for COVID-19, we will no longer be responsible for contact tracing her close contacts at school. From September, this will become the responsibility of the Contact Tracing team, though we will liaise with external authorities if required to do so.

If your daughter is younger than 18 years and 6 months and is identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19, she will not be required to self-isolate. However, she will be encouraged to take a PCR test so that she can be reassured that she has not contracted COVID-19. **However**, if your daughter is older than 18 and 6 months, and has not been fully vaccinated, then she **will be** required to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

Health and Safety in School

Despite many of the COVID restrictions being lifted, I still have a duty to do what I can to protect the health and safety of all students and staff at MHSG. As a result, the following **will be expected** of all members of our community:

- (i) Students should wash or sanitise their hands upon entering school and at key points throughout the day including prior to eating, following break and lunch times and when changing rooms. We would ask, please, that all students bring a small bottle of hand sanitiser into school with them although sanitiser will be readily available for use in all classrooms.
- (ii) Students should follow the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach to respiratory hygiene. Tissues will be available in every classroom as well as lidded bins in which to dispose of them.
- (iii) Students, alongside staff, should ensure that their rooms remain well ventilated throughout the day.

Although we hope that all of our students will be involved in the lateral-flow testing processes in school, we must not be complacent and – even if tested regularly – there is no substitute for these basic hygiene practices.

We will also adhere to public health advice which may well change these processes and procedures **if we experience an outbreak within school**. If this happens, we may be expected to reimpose restrictions within school which may involve the re-introduction of social distancing, the wearing of face coverings and restrictions upon group mixing. However, we hope very much, as I am sure you do, that this will not be the case. We know how much every member of our community has been impacted by the pandemic and it would be wonderful if we could sustain life as we remember it, for all of our students at Manchester High School for Girls. Our aim – with all of these measures – is to create the safest possible environment for both our pupils and our staff.

Many thanks for all of your valued support and we look forward to welcoming your daughter back to school and to seeing you during our forthcoming welcome evenings.

Regards,



Mrs H F Jeys
Head Mistress