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THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

incorporating

**THOMAS ADAMS SIXTH FORM
ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)**

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteachers: Jenni Whitfield BA (Joint Hons), Tom McAleavy BA (Hons)



Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid 19 – Updates

Firstly, on behalf of myself, the staff and the governors, may I thank you for your continued efforts which support our approach to managing Covid in our school community during this challenging time.

We currently have a rolling 7-day average of 13 positive pupil cases in the school and have decided to maintain the wearing of masks in lessons, communal areas and on school transport, to ensure that transmission rates in school remain as low as possible. Considering the latest Government announcements, we feel that this is an appropriate and proportionate measure, especially with Christmas approaching. For more information on the government, please go to the link:

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak)
(www.gov.uk)

Therefore, please ensure your child brings a face covering to school. If they have a medical reason for exemption, please contact Mrs Koopmann by email, skw@thomasadams.net or Mrs Warr, swarr@thomasadams.net. I would also like to remind you that all pupils must do a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) twice a week, preferably on a Sunday and a Wednesday, so that anyone who is asymptomatic does not spread the virus.

Please report any absence or COVID related matter to school using our dedicated COVID email address, which is closely monitored throughout the day – covid19@thomasadams.net

Shropshire Public Health's guidance to schools, in response to the growing number of cases in Shropshire Schools, is listed below:

- In the event of **any** member of the household developing symptoms or testing positive on a LFT, **ALL** members of the household are advised to get a confirmatory PCR test. If possible, self-isolate until a negative PCR test result is returned.
- In the event of the confirmatory PCR tests being positive, those with the positive test result will need to self-isolate for the period advised by the NHS (currently 10 full days).
- A negative PCR test result means the self-isolation period can end immediately, children should only end self-isolation and return to school if they are free from any of the three main symptoms ([Main symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/)) and they have none of the precautionary symptoms.
- In all cases, where there is a positive PCR test result in the household, it is recommended everyone has a further PCR test 4-5 days later, if their initial PCR result was negative.

In line with our Covid Risk Assessment - <https://thomasadams.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Risk-Assessment-Covid-19-Infection-Control-Sep-2021-Thomas-Adams-v6.pdf> - we were due to re-introduce some chairs into our lower school canteen from today. However, we have made the decision to delay this until our



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next review of the risk assessment in two weeks time. While I am aware that this is not ideal, we need to see what community impact the new strain of COVID may have. As always, my aim is to keep everyone in our school community safe and well and, as the canteen is the only place in school where pupils do not wear their masks, there is much more probability of airborne droplets transmitting the virus. Although we do have daytime cleaners that clean every tabletop between each group, by adding 100+ chairs this would make the surface cleaning unmanageable.

Finally, I would urge anyone to contact me if they wish to discuss the precautionary measures mentioned in this letter or would like further clarification on our COVID risk assessment. We pride ourselves on open and transparent communication, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Cooper'.

Mark Cooper
Headteacher