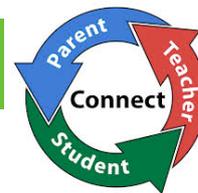


# Cavendish Connect

The Cavendish High Academy Newsletter / Spring 1 2022



## Dear Parents & Carers,

A very belated Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring Term to you all!

It has been an incredibly busy start to the new term as we have had to cope with a high level of staff absence (up to 20%) whilst doing our very best to keep our classes open for all of our students. As you may have seen in the news it is very difficult for schools to get high calibre supply staff to support our young people when permanent staff are absent. Last term we received a lovely e-mail from the DfE congratulating us on remaining open throughout the pandemic even when we have had very low staffing numbers.

Despite all the challenges up to this point we have admirably managed to stay open... however on Monday 17th we unfortunately found ourselves unable to keep all of our lower school classes open.

At the end of last week and the beginning of this one we had children attending school whilst unwell. A number of these students have since tested positive for Covid as have the supporting class staff. We have consequently had to close one class.

To help us to keep everyone safe, including those most vulnerable in our community, and to keep as many classes as possible open at this time, for the next two weeks we will be delivering on site testing twice weekly again for our students who can self swab. As always no child will be tested without their or your consent. If you do not wish your child to be tested please contact their class teacher.

If your child is unwell and is unable to test then they will need to stay off school until they are fully well again.

We are fortunate that we have plentiful stocks of tests so please let your child's class team know when you need some more sending home as well.

## **As you will be aware the government have again changed the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19 and schools guidance was updated by the DfE yesterday morning 18.01.22**

This change came into effect in England on Monday 17 January and applies to all positive cases, regardless of vaccination status.

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with an LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

The new rules also apply to people who are already isolating – so if someone was already isolating before Monday 17 January, they can take LFD tests on day 5 and 6 and if they are both negative and they have no temperature they can end their isolation.

**Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.**

### **Wrapping up**

Just a reminder that students do need to wrap up warm with layers for inside as well as outside as at this chilly time of year we are also having to keep windows open for ventilation across the school.

### **School Christmas Fair**

Thank you to all of you who were able to attend the school fair in December. Your support was very much appreciated and we are delighted to tell you that you helped to raise a huge £960 for the school.

### **Congratulations to .....**

Fifi, Georgia & Emma who won a story writing competition by Liverpool Hope University. Well done girls! What a brilliant achievement. They each won vouchers which they chose to spend on a trip to the cinema after school one evening, kindly supported by Paula Burke & Karen Gabbott.

Two of our wonderful teaching team: teachers Donna Tofts & Paula Burke. They are off to Budapest at the end of this week to represent England at an international conference. They will be presenting some of the fantastic lessons our staff deliver and sharing the amazing work our students do on gender and equality.

Take care,

Elaine & all the team at Cavendish

