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4th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please note that, as of today, Farlingaye High School will be implementing the new Government guidance on managing absence linked to COVID.

The key elements of the guidance for schools are as follows:

- *children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend*
- *adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days*
- *regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting, including in SEND, alternative provision and children's social care settings. Therefore, settings will no longer be able to order test kits.*

Please note that students no longer need to have a negative COVID test in order to return to school following a positive COVID test. If they have had a positive test result, they should return to school after three days, unless they are unwell.

Please also note that schools will no longer be able to issue test kits to students. This means that, in due course, the emphasis will shift from decision-making based on testing to decision-taking based on symptoms. It will, therefore, be up to families to judge if a student is too unwell to attend school, but we would ask that – in line with the guidance above – any student with a high temperature is kept off school until it returns to normal.

Staff will no longer routinely test, but staff who are ill and who test positive for COVID will still be asked to stay off work for five days and to return only once well, as per the guidance. This means that we may continue to experience disruption to lesson provision for the foreseeable future. However, it is our intention to provide as normal an educational experience as possible for all students going forward, and we will continue to do what we can to minimise any disruption.

Yours sincerely,

Dr A Sievwright
Headteacher