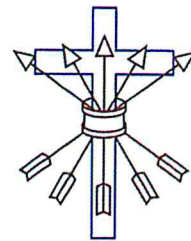


WADDESDON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

School Lane Waddesdon Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP18 0LQ

T 01296 651382 E office@waddesdonschool.com
F 01296 658453 W www.waddesdonschool.com

Headteacher: Matthew Abbott



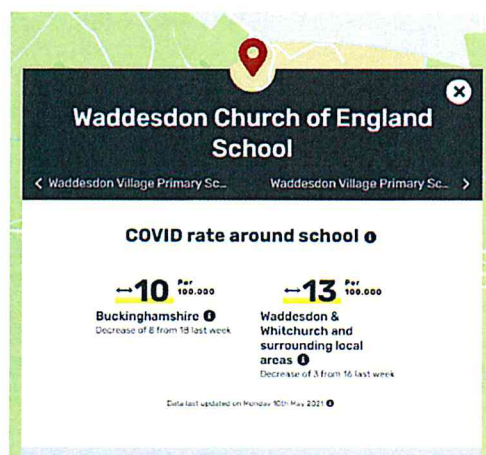
11th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In light of the new guidance from 17th May, please find below an update regarding proposed changes at Waddesdon in the coming weeks and months.

There are two key drivers behind any decisions for the school community. The first is to ensure that we are taking proportionate and sensible measures to minimise risk of infection and the second is to provide an appropriately broad education. These two considerations have been at the heart of the DfE guidance to schools since August 2020.

On the issue of safety, the infection rates around the school, as in most parts of the country, are now at levels not seen before our return in September 2020. This image from the NEU Covid Map website shows that on 10th May, the number of cases was 13 per 100,000, or the equivalent of 0.013% of the local population.



The last recorded case affecting a member of our school community was on 22nd March.

From June onwards with the departure of Year 13 and Year 11, the numbers of students in school will drop to 700 (from 1000).

With regard to curriculum provision, there have been significant obstacles to the effective teaching in some key subjects, in particular Science and Art with the use of bubbles. As well as impacting on the quality of education – despite our teachers’ best efforts and creativity – our lower year groups haven’t fully transferred to a Secondary School mindset since they have, in effect, been taught in miniature versions of Primary Schools.

As a result, and with the support of the Curriculum and Student Well-being Governors’ Committee, and the staff, we are proposing to adopt the following:

- As per the DfE guidance, from Monday, 17th May to **remove the mandatory wearing of masks in the classroom** for all students, **except** where a student is working in close quarters with a Learning Support Assistant or teacher. In this instance, both would wear a mask. Students will **still wear masks in corridors** where there is a chance that different year groups may come into contact. Should students and teachers wish to continue to wear masks they may do so.
- From Tuesday, 8th June, a **slight relaxation of the year group bubbles** to enable teaching to take place in subject specific classrooms. Year groups will still be

- separated for lunches and breaks and have year group specific toilets. Cleaning procedures will be updated accordingly.
- From Tuesday, 8th June, piloting of **carefully controlled work** between older students and reluctant readers, and lower form groups. This will be carried out under a series of control measures, with appropriate tracking and tracing. Socially distanced assemblies, involving 150 students from different form groups will also be considered.

To support these measures, our risk assessment (currently published on our Covid-19 webpage) is being updated and will be signed off by the Chairs of the Governing Body Committees. If there is a negative impact as a result of these changes, then we would reverse, or delay the measures.

Although I believe that most parents will welcome these changes and recognise the cautious steps that we are taking for the benefit of the students and teachers, I do know that some families remain concerned about risk of infection for personal reasons. With this in mind, if you have any specific requests or concerns, please direct these to me, so that – with you – we can identify the right approach for your son or daughter.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Abbott
Headteacher

R:HeadAdmin/Ltrs20-21/PrntsGen/ProposedChangesDfEGuidance110521