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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)

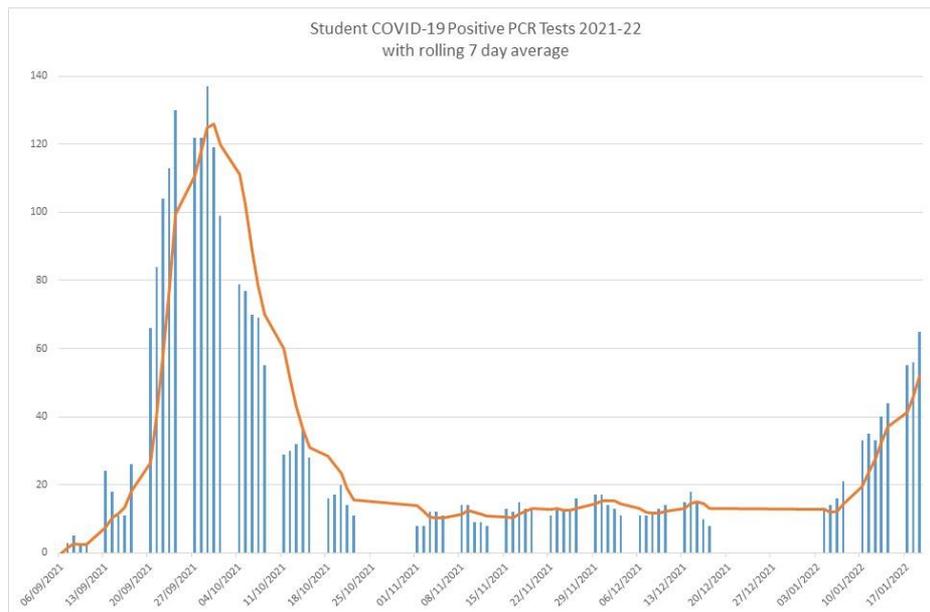


19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, the government is changing their guidance on COVID related restrictions. From the 20<sup>th</sup> of January; they suggest that 'face coverings are no longer **advised** for pupil, staff and visitors in classrooms'. However, in the School COVID-19 Operational Guidance published today, it also states that it will make sense to take 'extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases'.

Whilst we welcome the news that restrictions are being lifted, we are still extremely concerned about the current rate of transmission in our school. The graph below highlights the current situation in school and, as you can see, infections are rising considerably on a daily basis despite our current control measures which include the wearing of mask in classrooms and communal spaces.



During the pandemic, we have noticed that the patterns of transmission in Shropshire often lag behind the national figures by about two weeks. This would suggest that we still have a little way to go before we are 'out of the woods'.

Therefore, in order to protect the learning of our children and any further unnecessary inconvenience to families, we have taken the decision to continue to enforce the wearing of face coverings in both classrooms and communal areas by students and staff.



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Students will also still be required to wear face coverings on school transport as a precautionary measure. Our main concern is the threat of yet more lost learning for our young people. This could be due to any or all of the following factors; children are absent due to being infected with COVID; staff absence rises (currently there are 9 staff off with COVID) and students have to be taught/supervised by non-specialist teachers; or we are forced to make school closures to certain year groups due to high levels of staff absence.

We hope you agree, none of the above would be ideal after what has been a very difficult two years. Therefore, we hope you will understand our rationale for insisting on the continuation of wearing face coverings in our school at this time.

Obviously, we are not suggesting that face coverings will be a permanent requirement in school and, as we start to see a decline in the number of COVID cases (which we analyse weekly), we will communicate again with you our changes to this expectation. Hopefully, this will be in the near future.

May I take this opportunity to thank you yet again for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

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

Mark Cooper  
Headteacher