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Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021



## **Education and Families**

Mr Gregg Orrock  
Head Teacher  
Kilsyth Academy  
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[www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the course of the last few days we have received a significant number of phone calls seeking advice on Covid-19 related matters. I understand that the changes to guidance have caused some confusion and I am concerned that this will result in a raised level of anxiety across our school community.

To that end I have attached a letter from the acting director of public health for NHS Lanarkshire that will hopefully help clarify matters somewhat. You can also view this letter on our school web-site at [www.kilsythacademy.org.uk](http://www.kilsythacademy.org.uk) by following the link on our home page. I would particularly draw your attention to section 3 which provides guidance on what to do if someone in your household develops Covid-19 symptoms. Please note that should anyone in your household develop Covid-19 symptoms you should follow the guidance found at [NHS Inform](https://www.nhs.uk/inform), isolate and arrange to be tested.

I would also draw your attention to section 1 which explains what now happens should a positive case be identified amongst our pupils. You should note that Test and Protect are now fully responsible for carrying out contact tracing linked to any and all positive cases including school pupils. The school will no longer contact parents directly to identify their child as a close contact and you will only hear from Test and Protect if that is the case. It is also worth noting that Test and Protect are now applying amended criteria to identify only the closest of contacts including household members or where young people have been to sleepovers as an example. Sitting in class near someone who tests positive for Covid-19 will not now necessarily mean a young person is asked to self-isolate and miss school.

Furthermore, there may be occasions where a young person is identified as a close contact but has had a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days. If this is the case for your child then please note they are not required to get another PCR test and they are exempt from self-isolation as long as they remain symptom free.

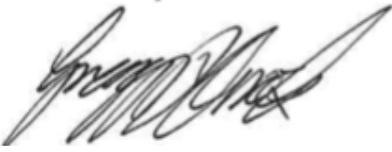
Again, I would appeal to everyone in our school to participate in the lateral flow testing scheme. I have no doubt the best way to keep us all safe is to ensure the virus does not enter the school and twice weekly testing can go a long way to helping us achieve this. Can I also remind those who are participating in the scheme to ensure that they record their test results, whether positive or negative, at the government website [here](#).

As a school, we regularly discuss and review our systems and procedures to ensure they comply with the latest advice and guidance. We will also take further steps to remind our young people of the steps they can take to stay safe in school.



In the meantime, and as we remain in the grip of this pandemic can I offer my best wishes that you and your family remains safe and well.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Orrock', written in a cursive style.

Gregg Orrock  
Head Teacher