

25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Agents,

As you will be aware, COVID-19 regulations in the UK have changed this week. Due to the extremely high levels of immunity in the UK nowadays and given a greater range of medical interventions if people are admitted to hospital, the Government is encouraging us to now transition to a new phase, known as 'living with COVID-19'.

The latest Government guidance is that regular lateral flow testing in education settings is no longer required. There is also no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. However, the Government still recommends that anyone who tests positive should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days.

With the intention of learning to live with COVID-19, we would like to ask you to support DLD College London in the following ways:

- Students and staff are no longer required to test twice weekly.
- Face coverings are not required or advised to be worn, however, staff and students are welcome to continue to wear a face covering if they would prefer to do so. We remain a mask-friendly school.
- Visitors to DLD, including parents and guardians, will no longer need to take Lateral Flow tests, nor will they be required to wear a mask.
- Students and staff who have any symptoms of COVID-19 should use a PCR or Lateral Flow test to confirm whether they have COVID-19.
- We would request that any student or staff member with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend DLD, given the potential risk to others. Therefore, students or staff who test positive should stay at home for at least five days and should not attend College until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days. Boarding students will be expected to isolate in their boarding accommodation for the required period. Students who have symptoms are classed as ill and therefore will not be in online lessons; they should be focusing their energy on their recovery, to enable them to operate at full capacity upon their return to school for face-to-face lessons.
- Close contacts are no longer required to isolate or to take daily tests.
- We would ask that you continue to maintain good hygiene practices to keep the school community safe. These are: washing your hands regularly or using the hand sanitiser stations around College, covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze and disposing of tissues in the bins provided.
- In the event of a local outbreak, we may be advised by our local health team to undertake testing for a period. We will of course update you if this becomes necessary.

This is a critical time in the school year, particularly for those with public exams in Years 11 and 13. While the above measures are no longer legal requirements, we believe that they represent a

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pragmatic approach which, if infection rates increase, will help to prevent COVID-19 from spreading through the school. We are conscious that we all want to move to a position of everyday normality; however, we will continue to remain agile in our response to the pandemic and to review those measures. We will of course advise you, should there be any need to reintroduce the measures. We hope that the advice we are following represents a common-sense approach to 'living with COVID-19' and we thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



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Bursar

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