



**BLACKWATER  
INTEGRATED COLLEGE**

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CIRCULAR 2021-22 TL021

To: Parents/Guardians of Yr11 & Yr12 students  
Cc: Bursar

October 2021

### **COVID 19 update**

Over recent days we have seen an increase in positive cases in the local community and across the College but with a higher number in Years 11 and 12. I would like to thank parents for their co-operation throughout this time as unfortunately we have not received any direction or calls from the Public Health Authority (PHA) identifying either students or staff as close contacts so we are relying on parents informing us of positive cases.

I have contacted PHA, who are responsible for contact tracing, and questioned the increase in positive cases and the actions we should take. A decision has been made that Year 11 and Year 12 will work from home on Thursday and Friday of this week to try and break a cycle of transmission and to allow time for testing before returning to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October. We apologise for the short notice but feel that quick action is needed in this case to directly address any further spread.

This is not a decision taken lightly and is to try and allow students to return safely on Monday as we realise there are important GCSE module examinations coming up in early November and we do not want students missing school if it can be avoided. Work will be provided for students on Google Classroom and teachers will be available for direct contact at their normal class times during the school day. Year 11 and 12 students have also been informed of this decision and have been given extra Maths, English and Science work for Year 12 to complete during these two days either in paper format or on Google Classroom.

We would strongly recommend all students in Years 11 and 12 to get a PCR test before returning to school on Monday so that we can hopefully return to face to face teaching for these students as soon as possible. If your child tests positive, please inform us via phone or email as soon as possible.

We will continue to monitor students in Years 8-10 where the cases are lower and appreciate the cooperation of parents at this time in keeping us informed. Please remain vigilant as regards symptoms in your child and as always if we can help in any way do not hesitate to contact us. If you have a child in Year 11 or 12 and a child in the younger year groups, the child in Year 8-10 can still attend and does not require a PCR test unless the older sibling tests positive.

Lateral flow tests are available from the school if you contact us on 028 4461 2115 but are for asymptomatic testing and a PCR test should always be taken if your child is identified as a close contact.

Stephen Taylor  
Principal

Blackwater Integrated College | 12 Old Belfast Road | Downpatrick BT30 6SG | Tel: 028 4461 2115  
Principal: Stephen Taylor BA Hons. PQH