



# Downs View Link College

Executive Headteacher: Vanessa Hickey

Surrenden Road  
Brighton  
BN1 6WQ

Telephone: 01273 601680  
Email: [office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)  
[www.downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](http://www.downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

4th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on the current situation at the Link College. We have now had 8 staff and 1 pupil test positive for Covid. We therefore remain in an 'outbreak' situation and are putting additional measures in place to ensure that we don't have further cases. I am in close contact with the local authority and PHE who are monitoring the situation.

As well as the staff that have tested positive we also have staff that are waiting on PCR tests as they have been close contacts of the positive staff members. This is having a big impact on our staffing levels and has meant that we are having to partially close or completely close some class groups. Where possible we will be operating a rota system for those students that we have asked to stay at home.

I understand that this is making it very difficult for families as we sometimes have to do this at short notice. I can only apologise to those families that have been affected and I hope that we are able to get back to normal opening for all students soon.

If your young person is able to tolerate it I would advise that you do regular lateral flow tests as this will help us to find any asymptomatic cases. I would also ask you to be very vigilant around the key symptoms of Covid and if your young person has any of the symptoms then please keep them at home and book a PCR test.

Myself and all of the staff at the Link College are working hard to keep it as safe as possible in very challenging circumstances. I want to thank Juliet and the staff for all that they are doing.

I appreciate this is worrying for families please contact myself or Juliet if you have any questions.

Best Wishes

*Vanessa*

Vanessa  
Executive Headteacher



## **Covid Symptoms**

If your child has any of the key symptoms of Covid it is really important that they remain at home until they have had a PCR test. If they are unable to access the test then they will need to isolate for 10 days. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If you have problems or cannot use the online service, call 119. Lines are open 7am to 11pm.

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- A new continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.