

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s)

### Changes to COVID isolation rules

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February, the Government removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing (LFTs). The education testing delivery channels will remain open so that staff and students of secondary age and above can access tests if needed to respond to local public health advice, specifically in relation to local outbreaks. Staff and students are also able to access test kits from their local pharmacy or online.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. At Paulet we would welcome your support in continuing to self-isolate for 5 days if your child is feeling unwell with COVID symptoms. In the guidance, the government has stated that close contacts under 18 no longer need to test daily for 7 days. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. Students should attend Paulet as usual as long as they are not symptomatic and feeling poorly.

### New style vaping products...a new menace?



It has come to my attention that a small number of students are being allowed to purchase, and subsequently bring to school, 'vapes' which allow them to pretend to smoke. This photograph shows some examples – notice how much they look like pens specifically highlighter pens. UK law states that *'the legal age to vape in the UK is 18. This includes the purchase of any vaping products such as e-liquids, e-cigarettes, vape pens and personal vaporizers'* and *'Selling vaping products to anyone aged under 18 and buying vaping products for anyone under 18 are prohibited.'* Please ensure your child is not in possession of these products; it is illegal and there is still no conclusive evidence that vaping does not cause ill effects to health. Students found in possession of vaping paraphernalia will have it confiscated and it will be destroyed. Sanctions will be issued according to our Behaviour for Learning procedure. This applies to products with and without a nicotine ingredient.

### Charity Non-Uniform Day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Thank you for your support for last term's charity non-uniform day. We raised just under £700 which the student voice will use to enhance students' social areas / experiences. We will have two further charity days this term; one of which will be in aid of a charity providing opportunities for young people with cancer and the second will be a donation of easter eggs to a local charity providing food assistance to families in need – details to follow.

### ...and finally!

Please keep up to date with news from Paulet by following us on Twitter or Facebook. Thank you for your ongoing support. Please remember - if you need to ask anything then please email [office@phs.jtmat.co.uk](mailto:office@phs.jtmat.co.uk)

Kind Regards

Ian McArthur  
Headteacher

