

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road  
Waterlooville  
Hampshire  
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 [www.oaklandscatholicschool.org](http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org)

✉ [oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org)



Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

**Headteacher:** Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

1 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Earlier this week the Government published revised guidance on the management of COVID-19.

The approach the Government is now taking appears to be managing the disease in the same manner as other viruses like respiratory infections; the rationale being the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

The guidance now states:

- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.

We have also been told that no more LFD test kits will be issued to students.

Pre-COVID it would be reasonable for students who are experiencing a common cold to attend school, unless symptoms were severe for example, a temperature, severe sore throat or loss of voice, so they could not carry out normal school activities. The guidance advocates a return to this position therefore all respiratory illnesses being treated through normal absence processes.

Although LFD tests are for most people no longer available for free, they can be purchased on-line and from some pharmacies, equally it is common knowledge that in many homes there are stockpiles. The use of LFD tests, therefore, is likely to continue for some time which will create some unevenness in recognition of COVID-19 symptoms. Irrespective of the availability of these, parents should follow the absence guidance issued by the DfE.

Over the last two years many students have experienced punctuated attendance at school because of the pandemic. I am sure all parents would agree that the best place for children is in school. There is a direct correlation between attendance and outcomes. Oaklands has had some of the highest rates of attendance in Hampshire, this is a position I would like to return to.

Finally, the Oaklands News will be published again at the end of next week, so this will be my last letter for this term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**