

From: Daniel J Harrison, MA (Cantab)
Headmaster



**SEDBERGH
SCHOOL**

FOUNDED 1525

14 November 2020

Dear Senior School Parents

Following my email of Thursday 12 November outlining the plans for the mass-testing of Sedgwick House, I write with an update.

Despite largely asymptomatic pupils, the tests provided a significant number of positive returns. We have discussed this with our School medical staff and representatives from the National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP), formerly Public Health England, and have taken the decision to ask the boys of Sedgwick House to return home wherever possible. We are enormously grateful for the support of parents of Sedgwick House in facilitating this decision. Pupils who have not been able to travel home are isolated and being looked after in School.

Our priority is to protect the health of pupils, staff and the wider community. Best practice now recommends that we test the whole population of the School and arrange for those who return a positive result, or who have been in close contact with them, to be isolated from the remainder of the School community. As a result, we have arranged testing for all pupils and staff early next week. The details of these arrangements will be published after our next meeting with NIHP on Monday morning. We anticipate that this will lead to more pupils returning home towards the end of next week either due to them being positive or due to being in a social 'bubble'. We will advise you of their status post-testing and before any pupils depart from School. It is possible that if we have to isolate pupils before testing, we will switch to remote learning and pupils would access Microsoft Teams for their lessons. Pupils will not be allowed to mix outside their House Year Group bubble.

We have already arranged online teaching for pupils who are currently at home and this will continue. All pupils will be briefed on this provision.

We know this will be unwelcome news at this stage of Term, but I am sure you will understand the rationale for our actions. As always, the educational and pastoral provision for your sons and daughters will remain our highest priority and we are doing all that we can to keep morale high in this very special community at this unfortunate time.

With very best wishes.

Your sincerely

Dan Harrison

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