1st June 2021

Dear parent

**Covid in Leek**

We are seeing an increasing number of cases of Covid in local schools. Testing has indicated that some of these cases could be one of the new variants of concern, although this has not yet been confirmed.

We are now asking everyone who attends St Edwards Middle School, Westwood College, Leek High School **and their households**, to get a PCR test as soon as possible. Any positive results will be genotyped to check if they have a variant of the virus so that we can try and stop it spreading. Please **do not** have a lateral flow test – these are not as accurate and cannot be genotyped, so may miss cases of these new variants.

You can book a PCR test at your local government testing centre here: [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test). Added to this, we will be providing additional PCR testing in Leek. More information about this will be available at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus).

If you or anyone in your household tests positive, the entire household will need to isolate for 10 days. We will also trace any close contacts to help stop the spread of infection.

If you have already been asked to isolate, you must continue to do so regardless of your test result.

We are also asking those who are eligible for vaccination, to get their vaccine as soon as possible. We are working with the NHS to bring forward vaccinations for Leek residents and again more information will be available at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus) when these plans are finalised.

It remains important to do everything we can to ensure we stop the spread of Covid. By taking precautions, testing regularly, isolating where necessary, and getting vaccinated we have an opportunity to prevent further cases and avoid any delay to the easing of lockdown.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Richard Harling

Director for Health and Care

Staffordshire County Council