



Our Ref	MV/KB
If you telephone please ask for Your ref	Mil Vasic 0151 511 6004
Date	30 March 2021
E-mail address	Milorad.Vasic@halton.gov.uk

Dear Parent and Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of the Council maintained, faith and academy schools in Halton to thank you for your continued support for the school your child/ren attend and for your care in adhering to the rules when you pick up and drop off your children.

Due to the challenges COVID19 presents, in opening up schools, there may be, (and may be after Easter) times that your child may not be able to attend, in these circumstances your patience and continued support for our schools is appreciated.

I have also been asked to pass on a message from our Director of Public Health, Eileen O'Meara, who also recognises how really hard you and your family have worked to reduce the numbers of COVID-19 cases in Halton. Your efforts in maintaining social distancing and following local and national restrictions have helped bring the rate of infection down. The "no symptoms" testing programme on the return to secondary schools and the college has been a great success and we both ask you to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term please, as this is vital to keep the transmission rates low especially in teenagers.

You will be aware by now of the need to self-isolate immediately if there is a positive test with your home kit and get a COVID Symptoms Test (PCR Test) if you have any of the three main symptom, new continuous cough, loss or change in sense of smell or taste, or a high temperature.

It is recognised that some people who test positive for COVID may also exhibit one or more of a broader set of symptoms (sore throat, bad persistent headache, fever, shortness of breath, severe tiredness, muscle aches, diarrhoea and vomiting).

If you have any of these symptoms, you should also get a COVID Symptoms Test (PCR Test) and self-isolate if **this** test is positive.

You can only get a COVID Symptoms Test (PCR Test) for broader symptoms if you book an appointment online. Go to <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> and select the option "My



local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms” when asked why you want the test.

Some outdoor socialising is now allowed, and much welcomed but this must be limited to no more than 6 people or two households. Indoor mixing between households is still prohibited. Please maintain social distancing where you can, wash your hands regularly and wear a facemask where required. Fresh air is also important.

Eileen and I do hope that we can get back to some kind of normality soon, but that relies on all of us continuing with our efforts. We mustn't lose any of the progress we've made.

Finally, I hope you enjoy your time with your family and that we can all look forward to returning to school or college, after Easter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Vasic'.

Mil Vasic
Strategic Director, People