



Post-16

Post-16 Staff
 Mr Franzke
 Mr McDuff
 Mr Carroll
 Jayne Townsend
 Kelly Moorcroft
 Jo Reed

Key dates for the diary

September
 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 27th Inset Days

7th–8th - Student induction meetings
 9-10th - Team building in Tutor Groups
 14th–17th - On timetable in Tutor Groups
 21st onwards - On timetable as normal

Many farewells!

We say a sad goodbye to those Y13s who are leaving us, many off to continue their education at The Park and City of Bristol College. We wish them all the best and will visit many of them to support their transition. Please stay in touch and visit!

We also say farewell to Mr Evans who steps down as the CEO of Learn@MAT, Mr Ewings who is moving on from the role of Headteacher and Mr Jones who is moving to manage the Central ALP. We thank them for all their work over the years and their vision that has shaped KnowLEDGE.



Staff changes

Mrs Lee-Wells and Ms Grayson will share the role of Headteacher and Mr Franzke is a new Assistant Head. Mr Carroll and Jayne will both share Head of Hub for Post-16 from September. There will be 3 Post-16 tutor groups.

Legoland

Post-16 enjoyed a brilliant trip to Legoland as an end of year celebration and a farewell to the Year 13s. It was a great trip to round off the year.



Sports Day

Post-16 had a fantastic Sports Day with some school records being broken, including furthest Nerf throw at over 50 metres!



WoW

In WoW (Ways of Wellbeing) this term we have looked at Beliefs & Practice and Inspiration. This has included looking at different world religions and the festivals they celebrate as well as where people find inspiration in their lives, including art, music and religion.

Covid vaccination

The government have said that young people with an EHCP are eligible to receive a Covid vaccination. Please contact your GP for more details.

Have an amazing summer everyone!

A huge thank you to all of the amazing schools, staff, pupils and parents who've helped with our study during the past year. From November last year to the 20th July, 1878 individuals from 17 Bristol schools provided 6796 saliva samples over monthly visits. We have asked our funder if we can extend the study for a few months beyond the end of this term, and are waiting to hear back about this. These efforts have created a detailed picture of how schools have coped with the impacts of the pandemic, and how they have successfully controlled the risks of infection so far.

CoMMInS was originally set up with Bristol City Council and other partners to support schools in remaining open safely and as far as possible through the pandemic.

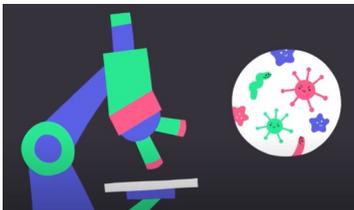
The main part of the research involves testing saliva samples in schools for current Covid-19 infection. Our sub-studies are looking into different aspects of schools' response to the pandemic:

- Germ defence - helping people protect themselves from Covid-19 in schools
- Digital health - co-designing a digital system to help schools manage Covid-19
- Contact patterns in schools
- School Life during Covid-19



Schools have been safe

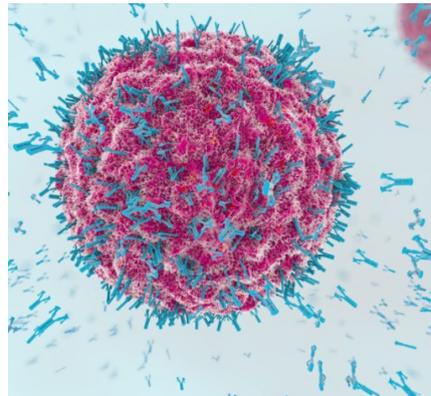
We have looked for evidence of current Covid-19 infection in saliva samples from 561 members of staff, 518 primary school pupils and 799 secondary school pupils, in 17 schools. A few samples were positive due to post-viral shedding, but we found only one current case of Covid-19 in the people we have tested, and that was recently, at the very end of this summer term.



This shows that Bristol schools that have been part of CoMMInS have been great at keeping Covid out so far, but have to remain vigilant. The number of cases reported in schools outside the study has also been increasing this term. We hope that our research will help schools and their communities to manage the ongoing risks.

Antibodies found in saliva samples indicate previous Covid-19 infection

After infection with Covid-19, the vast majority of people produce antibodies specific to the virus, these circulate in blood and help them clear the infection, as well as protecting against future infection. Antibodies are a component of the immune system, and can usually be detected 14–20 days after exposure. They increase rapidly and then gradually reduce in number, although the body retains a memory of how to produce them if it encounters the virus again.



Antibodies attacking a Covid-19 virus particle

In CoMMInS, we have been looking at whether there are antibodies in samples from pupils and teachers, to understand previous levels of infection in Bristol schools. To do this, we designed a test to find Covid-19 antibodies in saliva samples. We look for two types of antibody, called IgA and IgG.

Because saliva is not normally used to look for antibodies (scientists usually use blood samples), we have spent some time understanding what proportion of local people previously infected with Covid-19 have these antibodies in their saliva. In adults who reported having previously had a PCR-confirmed infection we found that about 50% of them had either IgA or IgG in their saliva, with 19% having both types of antibody, showing that a smaller proportion of people have detectable antibodies in their saliva compared to in the blood.

When we tested CoMMInS saliva samples collected at the end of November 2020, we found that out of 417 people tested by that stage, 9% had IgA Covid-19 antibodies and 8% had IgG antibodies. Most people with antibodies, had either IgA or IgG in their saliva, and very few had both. We do not yet know why some people have one type of antibody or the other. We hope that further CoMMInS research and analysis will help us to answer this question. In CoMMInS, we are collecting repeat samples over time from the same people, so we hope to also find out how long antibodies remain detectable in a person's saliva.

Our antibody test is a research procedure, and we will not be able to tell you your individual results at the end of the study. We hope, however, that in the autumn term we'll be able to let each participating school know what % of their staff and students were carrying Covid antibodies at the time of sampling.

Household Study

Have you or any members of your household tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 5 days?

If so, you may be able to help with the CoMMInS Household Study. The study involves giving saliva samples twice weekly for 4 weeks, to be collected from your home address. If eligible, you will receive vouchers for taking part.

The study is operational during the school holidays. Please go to...

<https://commins.org.uk/household-study/>

Digital Health

We are collaborating with staff, parents and pupils in 4 schools (3 secondary, 1 primary) to design digital tools and systems to help schools manage Covid-19.

Firstly we explored how easy it is for schools to follow Government guidance around social distancing and contact tracing. We also looked at which of their digital systems helped with this challenge. In-depth interviews with school staff suggest that despite schools' efforts to implement government guidance, high risk interactions are still taking place and these cannot always be appropriately monitored.

Digital tools like Proximity Tracking and CCTV could support contact tracing and help schools to monitor and limit risks. However, these tools raise concerns around privacy, and also around the costs and time involved in installing and maintaining new equipment. Drawing on these findings from school staff, we are now exploring parents' and pupils' perspectives on digital systems.



Germ Defence

We have been inviting students, school staff and parents to help us make changes to the Germ Defence website so that it can be used more widely and help reduce the spread of Covid-19 and other viruses in schools and homes. We have completed thirty interviews with students, teachers and parents; so thank you to all those schools involved. By the Autumn, we hope to have a finalised version of Germ Defence for schools and households to use.



Resources for schools

In collaboration with the Institute for Research in Schools, CoMMInS has produced curriculum-linked science materials for KS 3, 4 and 5, to enable students to apply their science knowledge to their lived experience within the pandemic. Bristol University has also collaborated with the Wellcome Trust to develop teaching resources on disease dynamics. Find these on our web site: <https://www.commins.org.uk/schools/>

School Life During Covid-19

With your help, we've been investigating the mental health and wellbeing of secondary school pupils and staff as they adapt to school life during COVID-19. Staff and pupils from 5 schools have been interviewed remotely (by phone or Zoom). We are still in the process of interviewing further participants and analysing the data collected so far.



Waste Water (TERM)

CoMMInS schools were also invited to take part in the Waste Water sub-study, a pilot study of automated sewage surveillance systems to detect coronavirus infection in schools in England. The study is now coming to an end. The final sample from three participating schools will be collected on the 15th of July. Over the past few weeks, the TERM team (at Middlesex University) has been working with the Bristol City Council health protection team and the headteacher of one of the participating schools where a positive and consistent signal was identified in the wastewater. Results from sequencing are expected over the next week to clarify to identify which variant was involved in this outbreak.

This study has shown that a non-invasive approach of monitoring wastewater in school is effective in detecting the presence of the virus in the wastewater, during a confirmed outbreak in school. This could be helpful in the future to monitor outbreaks without having the burden of individual testing.

The CoMMInS study team plan to compare the frequent (2+ times/week) wastewater virus detection measurements with the individual saliva-based tests done monthly to see how effective each method is at detecting outbreaks early.

The Middlesex University research team wishes to thank those Bristol schools who allowed the autosampling device to be installed in their systems.

What next... We are hoping to continue the study into the next school year to maximise the benefits of the research we have done so far. We have requested permission from our funder to:

- Continue monthly saliva sample collection for PCR and antibody testing throughout the next term so that we end up with a full year of data. This would allow us to track infection patterns across the year and compare these to how the peaks of the pandemic have unfolded and how the infection control measures have been enforced and relaxed.
- Continue the Digital Health, School Life and Germ Defence studies so we can finalise our data collection, analyse the information and share this with you.
- Have additional time to link all of the study information to NHS health records and analyse these data to understand more about the impact of Covid-19 on other health outcomes.
- To work with a national school survey to make the most of the data we have collected, with your help, in CoMMInS to address important unanswered questions about issues like long Covid, patterns of symptoms and re-infection in children.

We hope to have news of this study extension by the end of July. We will be in touch after your summer holiday to let you know more about our future plans.

We want to know what you think about CoMMInS

Like all of our participating schools and families, the CoMMInS study has had to adapt rapidly to unpredictable changes in the course of the infection, and to the impacts of mandatory social distancing and testing requirements. If you're able to tell us how you found taking part in this study, it will help us to improve our procedures for future research. Please complete our questionnaire (only 10 questions!) to let us know how we did so far. We'll be sending it out to all participants by email before the end of July.