



5th January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, I hope you have had a good Christmas break and wish you a happy New Year.

You may have seen on the news that during the holiday there were some updates from the Department for Education (DfE). I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the impact of this for us in school.

This week, we will be carrying out the lateral flow tests for students in school before their return to the classroom. See schedule below.

Year Group	Date of On-site Testing	Return to School	Remote provision
11 & 13	Tuesday 4th January 2022	Wednesday 5th January 2022	
10 & 12	Wednesday 5th January 2022	Thursday 6th January 2022	
Years 7 & 9	Thursday 6th January 2022	Friday 7th January 2022	Wednesday 5th January 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Form Time at 8.40am to 9am • An invited live lesson • Independent Tasks on Google Classroom
Year 8	Friday 7th January	Monday 10th January	Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th January: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Form Time at 8.40am to 9am • An invited Live Lesson • Independent Tasks on Google Classroom



I would like to remind all parents/carers that all details were communicated before the Christmas break in our [End of Term Letter](#). We would encourage all parents and carers to refer to this letter for the relevant testing information for your child. Can we also remind you that all work can be accessed via Google Classroom and full information on our Home Learning arrangements are available on our [school website](#).

In addition, students are encouraged to continue to test themselves at home, twice a week with LFTs which have been given out in school. If you require new test kits, please can you ask your child to request a kit when they arrive for their test at our Lateral Flow Test centre. The government is now strongly encouraging all to take part in LFT testing at home, including those who have previously tested positive for COVID within 90 days.

Face Coverings

One of the other major updates is that face coverings are now required in classrooms in addition to communal areas for all year groups. The advice is short term only and will be in place until Wednesday 26th January 2022, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point this will be reviewed by the government. This update has been put in place to support students and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing guidance that recommends face coverings for all in communal areas of all settings.

We will keep you up to date over the coming weeks through regular communications and through our fortnightly bulletin.

Those students who are medically exempt will need to carry their exemption pass with them at all times, should your child lose their pass, replacements are available from the Year Progress Leaders.

Changes to the Self-Isolation Period for Individuals Who Test Positive for COVID

Since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, as long as they conduct LFT testing.

Individuals may now take LFT tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive **two negative test results** are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation, and may return on day 8.

The first test must be taken no earlier than **day 6** of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.

If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and **return to school from day 8**.

Daily Testing for Close Contacts of COVID

Since the start of the academic year, Track & Trace has been operated by the NHS and not the school. People who are fully vaccinated, or young people identified as a close contact of someone with COVID, should take an LFT every day for seven days and continue to attend their school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. If the test is positive, they should follow the stay at home guidance [here](#).

Visitors to School

Over the coming weeks we will be minimising the number of visitors to our school. We would like to ask parents / carers to only come on to site if it is essential and to take a LFT before. Parent meetings will return where possible to a virtual setting.

Impact of Staff Absence

We very much look forward to seeing the students back in school for face to face learning. We will endeavour to remain fully open at all times. However, staff absence remains an ongoing issue but we do have contingency plans in place. This might mean that your child, whilst not ideal, will be taught virtually by their teachers or may experience a higher than usual number of lessons delivered by someone other than their usual teacher. I would ask for your understanding and patience at this time. Safety and adequate onsite supervision is my priority.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and patience during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Jenner
Headteacher