



4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope this letter finds you and your families well, having enjoyed a good Christmas and New Year. I have certainly enjoyed some quality time with my family during the Christmas holiday and I am now looking forward to welcoming students and staff back to school this week.

I received updated information from the Department for Education on Sunday morning. This letter outlines the important information for the return to school.

Reminder of the arrangements for on-site testing:

Testing for COVID-19 remains a priority. All students will undertake one on-site test on their return to school to help reduce transmission after a period of social mixing over the holidays. In order for us to conduct these tests safely and reduce the risk of transmission in the return to school there will be a staggered start to the term as follows:

Wednesday 5th January

Students in Year 11, 12 and 13 return to school and go straight to tutor rooms. On-site testing during tutor time and period one. Lessons as normal for Years 11, 12 and 13 from period two until 1.20pm.

Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 remain at home.

Thursday 6th January

Students in Years 9 and 10 return to school and go straight to tutor rooms. On-site testing during tutor time and period one.

Extended tutor time for all students and lessons as normal for Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 from period two.

Students in Years 7 and 8 remain at home.

Friday 7th January

Students in Years 7 and 8 return to school and go straight to tutor rooms. On-site testing during tutor time and period one.

Extended tutor time for all students and lessons as normal all students from period two

I apologise for the inconvenience this may cause some families where children are returning to school one or two days later but we have a requirement to undertake this testing and it is important to reduce the mixing of students prior to their tests for the safety of all in our school community.



Even if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

All staff and students are also strongly encouraged to test twice a week using a LFD test. Students will be issued with a box of LFT tests on their return to school.

Face coverings

Students will now be expected to wear face coverings in classrooms in addition to indoor communal areas. Please ensure your child has a face covering with them and a spare in their bag. This is a short term measure and I expect to receive further information from the Department for Education following a review on the 26th January, in line with the review on Plan B measures.

Change to self-isolation period

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD 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. 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 your child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

My priority is to keep the school open with the introduction of increased measures to safely support this. Attendance to school remains mandatory and I know how important it is for you for your children to attend school.

Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring the safety of our school community in these challenging times.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Whitehead
Principal

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