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4 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all managed a safe and enjoyable break with family and friends over the festive period.

We look forward to the return, in person, of all students over the coming days. A reminder of the return schedule below which facilitates an onsite lateral flow test, and that remote learning starts tomorrow P1 for all.

Year	Date of Onsite Lateral Flow Test	Return to School
7	Wednesday 5 January 2022 8:45am – 11:15am	Thursday 6 January 2022
8	Thursday 6 January 2022 8:45am – 11:15am	Friday 7 January 2022
9	Thursday 6 January 2022 12:00pm – 2:45pm	Friday 7 January 2022
10	Friday 7 January 2022 8:45am – 11:15am	Monday 10 January 2022
11	Wednesday 5 January 2022 12:00pm – 2:45pm	Thursday 6 January 2022
12	Friday 7 January 2022 12:00pm – 2:45pm	Monday 10 January 2022
13	Friday 7 January 2022 12:00pm – 2:45pm	Monday 10 January 2022

Please view individual testing times for each year group on the [COVID-19 page of our website](#).

As you may be aware Government, over the Christmas break, revised guidance for educational settings around the use of face coverings, vaccinations, lateral flow testing and self-isolation for January. Students will be given an updated presentation in tutor time this week to support their return and help understand any changes required.

In brief, I have highlighted the main changes below with immediate effect.

- Students will be required, unless exempt, to wear face coverings in classrooms as well as all indoor communal areas. Please ensure your child has a supply of face coverings, we will provide them if necessary.
- Updated vaccination advice [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#)
- The 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive test result for Covid -19 has been reduced to 7 days, in most circumstances, on the proviso of a negative LFT result on day 6 and 7 which are taken 24 hours apart.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-for-covid-19-cases-reduced-from-10-to-7-days-following-negative-lfd-tests>
- Students are strongly encouraged to complete an onsite lateral flow test before return, even if someone has tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days. We will continue to provide all students with lateral flow tests to complete twice weekly testing at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) as we progress through the term.
- Close contact tracing will still continue to be undertaken by NHS Test and Trace and advice, if given, followed.

This is the most up to date guidance however we are aware that there will be an update from the Prime Minister at 5pm this evening.

We are still planning to hold face-to-face parents' evenings at school of students in Years 7 and 9 this term, subject to change. Please refer to previous communications sent to each year group for booking information.

I thank you in advance for your continued support this term.



Mike Lowdell
Head Teacher