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Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued efforts in supporting your child through what continues to be a challenging time. I am pleased to report an increase in student attendance this term from last, we are seeing generally fewer students being required to self-isolate although we will need to be mindful of possible implications from the new variant. The national advice of regular testing and taking up the offer of vaccinations where appropriate continues, please do all you can at home to reduce the possible transmission of Covid-19.

In light of the recent Government instruction and move to Plan B, our Risk Assessments and school's Operating Guidance have been reviewed. All current systems in place continue - I would like to draw your attention to a new requirement from Monday 13 December that all visitors to school will be strongly encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) before entering school. This is only for visitors who are entering our site for a parent meeting or larger event where you will be within the main complex. There will be no requirement to test if for example, parents or carers are simply popping into the main reception or collecting students.

We are very conscious of the need to complete face to face parents' evenings for lower school students, where you have yet to have the opportunity to meet key staff in person. Letters will be sent today for parents of students in Year 7 and 9 with instructions of how we plan to manage this event safely on site. We are still planning to hold these in school, we have scheduled in movement time on the evening to allow staff, students and parents to spread out into a variety of rooms for greater social distancing.

Thank you for the positive feedback around the publishing of student data reports recently - learning conversations have taken place in tutor time with all students and subject teachers and we will continue to use this data in supporting all students moving forward.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme details have been sent to all eligible families, please do look out for this county wide support offer for the Christmas period.

A quick reminder of the early finish next Friday, and the staggered return for student testing in January.

	Date of On Site 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

Lastly today, although I will write in next week's parent bulletin, a huge well done to all students but especially those in Years 11 and 10 who have superbly managed their mock exams so far to date. Students have understood their importance and shown real maturity through the process which I am sure will stand them in good stead for next year.

Have a great weekend.



Mike Lowdell
Head Teacher