



2nd January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you as you may have seen the news today about updated guidance on face coverings in secondary schools, specifically that these will now be required in classrooms as well as other interior communal areas. This temporary measure has been put in place to support the national effort to keep schools open for face-to-face teaching for as many children as possible. I would therefore be grateful if you could ensure your child has an appropriate face covering for use in school on their return and ideally a spare.

All other aspects of the return to school remain as previously communicated. Please see emails from the School regarding the phased return over the first three days to facilitate one on site Lateral Flow Device test for each student. You will have received a general email about which day each year group attends for testing and which day they return for on on site lessons as well as information about how we will provide home learning until they do. You will also have received a more specific email about what time of day your child will attend for their LFD test. This is being organised by Form group. Please ensure they bring a face covering with them and attend at the required time. The updated guidance to schools states that all students who we have consent for should take one of these tests at school. This includes those who have previously tested positive in the last 90 days. If you have any queries, please contact us on Tuesday, 4th January.

You are probably already aware, but below I set out updated guidance regarding the isolation period for those who test positive:

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 you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Anyone identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact should follow the following advice:

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 their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

I will write to you again in the new term, but in the meantime I wish you and your family all the very best for 2022 and apologise for breaking into your Sunday with this email.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey

Head Teacher