



4 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. I write with further details of the return to school and new government measures in order to reduce the risks of Coronavirus.

### **COVID testing**

The DfE have asked secondary school students to undertake one on-site test, on return in January. Evidence has shown that school on-site testing not only helps boost testing participation and reduce transmission after a period of social mixing during the holidays but is also more accurate as the testing is supervised in a controlled environment. I would strongly encourage your child to take this opportunity as this will help to minimise disruption to education caused by COVID absence at the start of this term. We will be using the new tests that only require nasal swabs. Even if your child has had COVID in the last 90 days they should come for this test as the guidance has now changed. If you would like your child to be tested in school and have not provided consent please send your child in anyway as we will assume consent if you have sent them into school specially to get tested.

Your child should then be strongly encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) and to school via Test Register. We are expecting delivery of more tests this week and will hand them out as soon as we can.

### **Reminder of return to school and testing dates:**

#### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

- 8.45 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. Year 7 students invited to take a COVID test
- 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Year 11 students invited to take a COVID test
- 1.15 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. Year 10 (Forms BOW) students invited to take a COVID test
- Students in Years 8 and 9 will have live remote lessons via TEAMS all day
- Students in Year 10 will have live lessons via TEAMS period 1 and 2 only

#### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

- 8.45 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. Year 8 students invited to take a COVID test
- 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Year 9 students invited to take a COVID test
- 1.15 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. Year 10 (Forms PAR) students invited to take a COVID test
- Students in Years 11 and 7 should return to school as normal
- Students in Year 10 will have live lessons via TEAMS period 1 and 2 only

#### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

- All students will be in school for face-to-face lessons unless they receive notification of a positive test result.



## **Face Masks**

In accordance with the revised guidance from the DfE, students will be expected to wear face masks in lessons as well as communal areas; this includes wearing them on corridors as they move between lessons. The advice is short-term only, to support students and teachers as they return to school this term, and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

Can you please make sure your child has a face covering with them when they come to school and a spare daily. Whilst we will always have a stock of face coverings available, we do not have vast quantities as you can appreciate our limited stock will soon run out and the costs of issuing face masks each day will mount up if students do not have their own. Balaclavas are not allowed to be worn as face masks so students must have standard face coverings instead. We endeavour to ensure all members of our Academy, staff and students, are kept safe and your support is much appreciated.

Existing arrangements are already in place for mask exemption. Students will not be expected to wear face coverings when eating or drinking or when outside. Please note, in order to give them mask-free time and fresh air, we will only be calling 'wet break/lunch' as a last resort and not if rain is light or the weather is simply cold.

## **Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19**

Since Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 7.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

## **Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19**

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, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school over the next few days, thank you once again for your support.

Yours faithfully



**Mr S. Deen**  
**Principal**