



6 January 2022

Returning to School Update January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have been able to enjoy some wonderful family time together. On behalf of the school I wish you all a very happy new year.

I am writing with reminders and an update on recent government guidance regarding our school procedures in managing the ongoing challenges of Covid-19.

Firstly, please can I ask that your child takes a **LFD test on Sunday 9 January 2022**. Test kits were distributed to students during the last week of last term.

On Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 January (if required due to capacity) school will retest all students that have consented to be tested. If you wish to give consent for testing when you have previously not given this, please complete the link here by Sunday 9 January 2022: <https://forms.office.com/r/UzypbbnZkX>

Even if your child has been infected with Covid-19 within 90 days of these LFD tests, we are being advised that your child should be retested and continue to test at home. In addition, anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

Further supplies of LFD tests will be distributed to students during the first week of the new school term and the government strongly advises that LFD testing continues at home. As in previous messages, Wednesday and Sunday evenings would be an ideal way to build LFD testing routines into home life.

Returning children to school after infection earlier than in the past is now possible. This is dependent on a child testing negative on a LFD test 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, return your child to school from day 7. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>

A major concern for schools and public services is the potential of staffing shortages as colleagues have to isolate due to Covid-19 Omicron infection. We will be monitoring our school's circumstances very closely and will make every effort to deliver as much normality as possible for students and staff during this latest phase of the pandemic. Planned Year 13 mock examinations will commence as planned in the new term.

Finally, face coverings are now required to be worn in classrooms, in addition to indoor communal spaces and on public transport and school buses. Students exempt from this requirement need to wear their yellow badge on their blazer or collect a temporary replacement from student services, directed by their form tutor. Please ensure that you equip your child with a face covering each day for school unless they are exempt.

We look forward to seeing our students on Monday 10 January 2022 in their full school uniform, fully equipped and eager to learn.

Mr Andrew J Knowles
Headteacher