



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave ☒ Garstang ☒ Lancashire ☒ PR3 1YE ☒ Tel: 01995 603226 ☒ Email:
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14th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I just wanted to share a few reminders with you before wishing you a very merry Christmas.

We break up for Christmas this Friday. This will be a non-uniform day (Miss Royds will send the 'Just Giving' link prior to the day) and children will finish school at 1.05pm. There will be no lunches provided on Friday, but all year groups will have an extended break time and food will be available from the canteen.

Our January return will be staggered to allow for children to be Covid tested prior to all children being back by Friday 7/1/22. The schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday 5/1/22: Year 7 and Year 11 only. All children with consent will be tested during P1 and P2 with a return to normal lessons for the rest of the week after that.
- Thursday 6/1/22: Year 7 & 11 normal lessons; Year 8 and 10 back in school with all children with consent to be tested during P1 and P2 with a return to normal lessons for the rest of the week after that.
- Friday 7/1/22: Year 7,8,10 & 11 in normal lessons; Year 9 back in school with all children with consent to be tested during P1 with a return to normal lessons after that.

Any children who will not be tested are welcome to return with their peers, and just wait while their form are tested, or when normal lessons resume (see above).

The DFE have sent some revised guidance:

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST

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Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the Online Reporting System and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the Sunday 12 December press release. This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Finally, it is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all education and childcare workforce and all students of secondary age and above.

All that remains is for me to thank you, as always, for your amazing support of our wonderful GCA children and staff and to wish you a very Merry Christmas – I hope that you have a lovely, restful break.

Very best wishes,

Alasdair Ashcroft
Headteacher

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