



4 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you have had a relaxing and peaceful holiday and have not been affected too much by the impact of COVID-19.

We received updated guidance from the Department for Education on Sunday morning. Some of this has been widely reported in the media, but the key points for us as a school are:

1. Testing - please ensure that if you have given consent for your child to test that they have taken a LFT at a local testing site, or at home, before returning to school on Wednesday 5 January. Further test kits will be given out by pastoral teams and your child should continue to test twice a week. This includes students who have previously had COVID-19, once they have completed their isolation period.
2. Self-isolation following a positive PCR test result - Please continue to inform school if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, but remember that the 10 day self-isolation period for students who record a positive PCR test result for COVID19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless students cannot test for any reason.

Students 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 students do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8. We strongly encourage you to follow this guidance to enable your child to return to school as soon as possible if they test positive for COVID-19. Please contact school to inform us of these negative test results if your child is returning to school on day 8 to 10 of the self-isolation period.

3. Wearing of facemasks - students will be required to wear facemasks in class as well as continuing to wear them in corridors and communal areas. We will continue to encourage students to go outside at break and lunchtimes so that they get a break from wearing their facemasks. The guidance from the DfE states that the requirement to wear facemasks in classrooms will be reviewed in line with the review of 'Plan B regulations' on Wednesday 26 January. We will communicate with you further once we have been informed of the outcome of this review.

We will continue to review our procedures in school and will keep you informed of any developments. Please note that the Year 9 Options Evening scheduled for Thursday 13 January will be held online rather than in school. Further information about this evening will be sent to parents/carers of Year 9 students later this week.

Thank you for your continued support for the school.

Yours sincerely

Dave Hewitt  
Headteacher