



Monday 6th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following on from my letter of 17th November “regarding measures taken to support the school to reduce the current rate of infection throughout the school”

All parents were advised to continue with the routine asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device COVID-19 testing of those aged 11 and above in the household, on a daily basis. Our students were asked to test before they leave home, every morning. You were asked to provide your daughter with an adequate face mask, tissues and with personal hand sanitiser. Families were informed that face masks should now be worn in classrooms and all other areas of the school unless students are eating or drinking or exempt, although it is not a legal requirement. Other additional measures were stated as follows: in lessons, staff will maintain a distance of 2m from students and they will not circulate during the lesson; students will be expected to sanitise their hands on entry to all lessons; all assemblies, staff meetings and school events will be virtual meetings; PE kits to be worn to school on days when PE is timetabled.

Implementation of the above Health Security Agency *amber measures* was monitored and reviewed and has been found to have impacted positively on numbers of confirmed cases among students and staff. Confirmed student cases in a ten day period have halved and there have been no more confirmed cases among staff. In light of this, the amber measures as described above will continue for the remainder of term and for the first two weeks of the spring term at which point I will update you.

Taking precautions at home and when out and about socially, will also serve to protect our school community. Please encourage your household to take every possible precaution and to engage in regular LFD testing. Test kits for home use can be collected from the areas outside Reception and the Medical Room.

New Librarian

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that the new school librarian, Ms Shannon Bridger, will be taking up her post on Monday 13th December. Ms Bridger will be introducing herself to our students during that last week of term in readiness for various events planned in the library in the new year.

School Christmas lunch

This year our caterer is serving Christmas lunch on Tuesday 14th December. Students must buy a ticket for Christmas lunch from the canteen till, in advance of that day. Tickets are available on a first come first served basis and cost £2.75. Students who are in receipt of free school meals should collect their ticket from the Finance Office by Friday 10th December.

End of term arrangements

I would like to take the opportunity to inform you of general end of term arrangement details. These are as follows:

- Year 11 will end this term on Thursday 16th December at the end of the school day as usual
- Years 7 -10 and sixth form will end this term on Friday 17th December. Their departure will be staggered as follows:
 - Year 7 12.00pm
 - Years 8 and 9 12.10pm
 - Years 10, 12 and 13 12.20pm

All PE lessons on Friday 17th December will be classroom based therefore no-one should come to school in their PE uniform on that last day of term. To support charity fundraising our students have organised a Christmas jumper, or suitably seasonal jumper day, for the last day of term. The jumper should replace the school jumper - all other items of uniform should be worn as usual. Students taking part in the jumper initiative will be asked to make a donation on the day to support chosen charities. Specific details will be available nearer the time.

Start of term arrangements and lateral flow testing

When school reopens after the holidays there will be a staggered start to term to support LFD testing for all students with parental consent, on site as required by the DfE under current guidance. I will send you specific further details in due course but I am able to give you general information now.

The morning of Wednesday 5th January will be used for staff training and preparation of testing venues. Students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 with parental consent for testing will come into school from 1pm to be tested and will then return home. Those who have tested negative will return to school the following day (Thursday 6th January) as long as their LFD test remains negative, to start lessons according to their timetable. Year 12 students will commence their mock examinations on Thursday 6th January.

Year 7 and 8 students with parental consent for testing will come into school on the morning of Thursday 6th January to be tested and will then return home. Year 9 students with parental consent for testing will come into school on the afternoon of Thursday 6th January to be tested and will then return home. Those students in years 7, 8 and 9 who have tested negative will return to school the following day (Friday 7th January) as long as their LFD test remains negative, to start lessons according to their timetable.

I am including a link here for those families who would like to give consent for the in-school testing session at the start of next term.

<https://forms.gle/7A5bdjm9ANMLFx3N8>

Subsequent tests will be completed at home. Previously given consent does not cover consent for January 2022 LFD testing on site. I will include the above consent link in my end of term letter as a reminder.

Thank you for your support of our Covid arrangements; together we are keeping our school open and keeping our students and staff as Covid free as possible for the remainder of term and into the holiday period.

Yours faithfully

Violet Walker
Headteacher