

Acting Headteacher: Ms. A. Ward

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well.

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school tomorrow for the start of the new term. The term starts for all students at 8.40am on Tuesday, with students attending normal lessons from period 1.

We are writing with several important messages, primarily in relation to reduction of transmission of Covid 19. We ask that you read these carefully and please let us know if there are any questions or concerns.

### Covid testing

Students are strongly encouraged to take a lateral flow test before the start of term and then twice each week. The results should be reported both to the government [here](#) and to the school [here](#).

The school is offering one onsite test to all students. This is done based on consent. If consent was only given for testing in March or September 2021, then this must be given again now. Onsite testing is strongly encouraged in addition to testing at home.

You can complete the consent form here: [Consent form for COVID-19 testing in secondary schools and colleges \(office.com\)](#). If this was completed at the end of last term it does not need to be done again. Please complete the form by 8am on Tuesday 4th January.

### Changes to self-isolation for students who test positive for Covid 19

Since Wednesday 22 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.

Students may now take lateral flow 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 there is no high temperature, students may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

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

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### Daily testing for close contacts of Covid 19

Any students 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 as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

### Covid vaccinations

Pfizer booster vaccinations will shortly be offered to:

- children aged 12 to 15 years old who are in a clinical risk group or who are a household contact of immunosuppressed individuals
- all young people aged 16 to 17 years old

A primary course of vaccination will also be offered to children aged 5 to 11 years old who are in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone (of any age) who is immunosuppressed. The NHS will provide further information shortly on how this can be accessed.

### Face coverings

It is now recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms. The advice is short term only, to support the return to school, and will be in place until Wednesday 26 January.

Please ensure that your child brings a face covering to school with them each day, unless exempt.

### Exams and assessments in January

These will go ahead as planned. Pre-public exams for students in Year 11, 13 and Y12 examined subjects start on Monday 10th January.

### INSET day on Friday 14th January

A reminder that school is closed to students on Friday 14th January, except students in Year 11 and 13 who should still attend for mock exams.

**Finally, a reminder that if students have any symptoms of Covid 19 (a high temperature, a new continuous cough and/or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) then they must remain at home until they have taken a PCR test.** Please report this absence to the school by calling main reception as normal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school through main school reception from 8am on Tuesday 4th January.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to working closely together this coming term.

Yours sincerely,



Alice Ward  
Acting Headteacher