

6th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing early this term to thank you, very much, for your support with the staggered return to school as we have sought to provide a lateral flow test to students.

As you will, undoubtedly, be aware the rate of infection with the Omicron variant remains high although, thankfully, it would appear that this is leading to lower rates of serious illness. This said, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to keep the school community safe and secure, to protect the gains we have made and to avoid further significant disruption to the education of our young people.

My strong desire, and that of my team, is to maintain face to face education for our students throughout. Should challenges emerge, such as a significant difficulty presented by high levels of staff absence we will of course share any necessary plans or adjustments with you as soon as is possible.

In the meantime, you can continue to support our efforts to keep the school community safe by following the published guidance and by ensuring that your child(ren) routinely conduct 2 lateral flow tests per week and that these are recorded on the NHS website.

A reminder that you can get LFTs from school, from your local pharmacy or by going here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Keeping the school COVID Secure

We will continue with our COVID arrangements, here at school, which include:

1. Staggered starts and ends to the school day
2. Staggered breaks and lunch-times
3. Hand Hygiene (sanitiser available on entry, exit, around the school build and in every classroom and office).
4. Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms
5. Visitors to the school to confirm negative LFT on arrival

The most important measure, of course, is that no child or adult should attend school if they are exhibiting symptoms of CoVid-19. Instead, they should be kept at home and access a COVID19 PCR test.

A reminder that the established symptoms of CoVid-19 are:

1. A new persistent cough
2. A fever
3. A loss of sense of taste or smell

I also want to share with the current guidance on self-isolation in which there have been some significant changes over recent days. The most up to date guidance is as follows:

When to self-isolate:

Self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) on GOV.UK as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:
• a high temperature
• a new, continuous cough
• a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
You should also self-isolate straight away if:
• you've tested positive for COVID-19 – this means you have the virus
• someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (unless you are not required to self-isolate – check below if this applies to you)
• you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive – find out what to do if you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app

When to stop self-isolating:

You can stop self-isolating after 7 days if you do a rapid lateral flow test on days 6 and 7 of your self-isolation period and:
both tests are negative
you did both tests at least 24 hours apart
you do not have a high temperature
If you do a rapid lateral flow test on day 6 and test positive, wait 24 hours before you do the next test.
If you stop self-isolating on or after day 7, it's important that you take steps to reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 to others. This means you should:
work from home if you can
wear a face covering in shops, on public transport and when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors, in crowded places or where there is not much fresh air
limit contact with people at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19
follow advice on how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19

You can stop self-isolating after the 10 days if either:

you do not have any symptoms

you just have a cough or changes to your sense of smell or taste – these can last for weeks after the infection has gone

When you do not need to self-isolate

If you live with or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine

you're under 18 years and 6 months old

you're taking part or have taken part in an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial

you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Even if you do not have symptoms, you're strongly advised to:

do daily rapid lateral flow tests (1 a day for 7 days), if you're fully vaccinated, to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 - find out more about daily testing on GOV.UK

follow advice on how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19

consider limiting contact with people who are at higher risk from COVID-19

With best wishes for the coming term.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Danny Lye
Headteacher