

17 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family had a peaceful and restful break over Christmas and New Year.

I am pleased to inform you that the Lateral Flow testing in the first week of term has gone very smoothly. As always, our students behaved extremely sensibly throughout. The number of students self-isolating has also reduced significantly with attendance rising to near normal levels by the end of last week.

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for Covid-19

Please be aware that from Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with Covid-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6, and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

12-15 Covid Vaccinations

12 to 15 year-old children are now eligible for a second Covid vaccination. We will advise parents and carers of the dates that the vaccinations will take place in school as soon as they have been confirmed to us by the NHS. However, parents and carers can now book an out-of-school vaccination for their 12+ child through the [NHS booking system](#).

PCR Tests and Plan B Regulations

Please note that confirmatory PCR tests have been temporarily suspended so the result of a positive Lateral Flow test should be regarded as conclusive.

As previously explained, students are expected to wear face coverings in classrooms and communal areas e.g. corridors. The advice on face coverings will be in place until the Government review on Wednesday 26 January.

Finally, I would like to make you aware that the high rates of COVID-19 may cause difficulties with the availability of school staff. We are currently managing this by using supply staff, but as always, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support and understanding when your child's teacher or member of support staff is not available.

Yours sincerely,



Mr G McKenna
HEADTEACHER