

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas holiday that has been COVID-free.

This letter is to highlight some key aspects of the new Government guidance that came out yesterday and remind you about our testing plans for tomorrow.

As always, I seem to be ever hopeful that we have seen the last of disruption due to COVID but once more, we need to adapt to ensure that all students can access quality learning whilst remaining safe. Therefore please see the information below to support us all.

#### Testing throughout this term

For educational reasons, as well as for health reasons, we need everyone to play their part in keeping themselves and others safe – please do follow the updated guidance in this letter and above all, do the twice weekly lateral flow testing. Every positive test for an asymptomatic student, prevents transmission within our school community and therefore prevents many others from having to take time away from class and from their education.

By not testing regularly, asymptomatic carriers can go unidentified and this will impact other students (and staff) needing to take time away from school. The government's guidance about Covid has changed considerably in recent weeks, with the most recent update being issued to schools yesterday (2nd Jan). [Please see the FAQs below.](#)

#### Testing tomorrow

Just to remind you that students will be working from home tomorrow except to come in for their test. Details about tomorrow were sent out before the holidays and can be [found on our website.](#)

There has been an **amendment** to the arrangements sent out before the holidays and it is now **strongly recommended** that all students are tested before returning to school, including those that have tested positive for Covid 19 within the last 90 days.

[Please complete or update our consent form](#) so we can send the results to you via the NHS App.

#### Face masks

Please be aware that, in response to an announcement made by the Government yesterday (2nd Jan), students will again be required to wear face masks in classrooms (as well as in communal areas) on their return to school. This does not apply to students who have an exemption from wearing a face mask and have been given a pass. The Government has indicated that this measure will be reviewed on 26 January but in the meantime we would request that staff and students adhere to this in order to protect our school community.

Please ensure that your child is aware of this change and that they bring a face mask with them every day to school as well as a sealable plastic bag in which to store it. The school does have a small supply of face masks available, but **please note that the expectation is that students always bring their own**. A nominal charge of 50p will apply where masks have to be provided to students by the school other than in exceptional circumstances.

With very best wishes to you all and hope for more settled times in 2022.

Mrs Oakley

FAQs based on the Government guidance from Jan 2nd 2022 [click here](#)