



16th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly I am writing to you to thank all parents and carers for their continued support over the course of this term, which at times has been particularly challenging. This has been much appreciated by myself, the staff and governors.

The recent developments with the Omicron variant may have raised concerns for our return in January.

The government are strongly advising the testing of secondary age pupils should take place on their return to school, with the initial two tests conducted in school and then testing to take place at twice weekly at home. Thank you to those parents who have given consent for their child to be tested previously, this includes parents who consented last year. All of those who have consented previously, your child will be tested on their return to school and then testing kits will be sent home with your child. I would like to re-iterate that this is voluntary. If you would like your child to be tested on their return to school, and haven't completed the consent form, please complete the permission form attached to this letter and return to school by the Monday 3rd January 2022.

Regular testing is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education.

You must report results, even if your result is negative or void. You should also keep a note of and share your results with your school/college. This can be done via the school website. The link can be accessed via the front page.

Reporting results is easy. Go to [report a COVID-19 lateral flow test result](#) or call 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Support is offered in 200 languages as well as British Sign Language.

To enable testing in the Secondary Department to be completed the return back to school will be staggered.

The following groups will **BE IN** school on the following days.

Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 rd January	Bank Holiday School Closed to all pupils	Year 10 & 11	Year 7, 10 & 11	School fully open	School fully open

The Primary Department will be fully open from Tuesday 4th January.

The government have suggested that potentially the number of positive cases may be very high in January, so in line with our contingency and risk assessment, we will continue to implement the following for the first two weeks back to be reviewed:

- Wearing of masks in communal areas and on transport for all staff and pupils if they are able to.
- Reduce large groups of pupils mixing in activities such as assemblies.
- External visitors / meetings including annual reviews will be moved to remote.
 - Continued handwashing, ventilation.
 - Regular cleaning of high touch points and surfaces.
 - A minimum of twice weekly testing.
 - Any parents or visitors coming into school to take a LFT before their visit.

I recognise that again we are ending a school term with uncertainty which I know for many of our children and families will be unsettling. The guidance of course may change as it often does and should I receive any further information, I will of course update parents and carers at the earliest convenience.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy Christmas.

With very best wishes

Helen Ball

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