



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we reach the end of the week, I am writing to share further information about COVID-19 measures that we hope may be of use to you, following on from my email at the start of this week.

Face masks:

Firstly, I would like to send **our thanks to you all** for the incredible response to the need for students to wear face masks in lessons as well as around the school buildings. Staff also need to wear masks apart from when they are at the front of the classroom, explaining learning to students. Most of our children are now bringing their own face covering. A reminder that if you are unable to provide a face covering, please email your child's Year Leader and we will support. If you have access to extra face coverings and can donate them, please send them in with your child to their tutor. The wearing of face coverings will be reviewed nationally at the end of January.

Face mask exemptions:

If your child is exempt from wearing a mask, please write to your child's Year Leader explaining why they are exempt and they will be given a card to show to staff. This should be done as soon as you are able.

Face masks in examinations and internal assessments:

In today's government email to schools, they have reviewed the wearing of face coverings in examinations, including school-based examinations and formal assessments and have stated that whilst students must wear a face covering when walking to and from their seat, they are able to remove them once they are sat down, should they wish to.

Regular home testing:

Regular lateral flow testing at home remains of vital importance if we are to keep the risk as reduced as possible in the school community. Thank you again to our parents and carers who are doing this and informing us of a positive result at their first opportunity. We know that usually, if a student experiences symptoms, these have been mild, but we all also recognise the impact of not being in school for individuals and we know that some students have felt unwell. We wish all the best to any students or their family member/s who are isolating currently.

Learning for self-isolated students:

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please report their result as soon as you can to the school, where possible, forwarding the text/email from the NHS to confirm their isolation period as well as their result. This information is shared with their Year Leader and their teachers. From the following day, staff will set work on Show My Homework by 08:30 each morning or post a message giving their intentions to live stream the lesson. It is our intention to give your child every opportunity to keep up with their peers and maintain contact with their teachers. If your child is too ill to work, however, they are not expected to do so.

If you would like to contact your child's teacher, tutor or Year Leader directly, their email addresses are available on our school website through the [contact us](#) section, selecting from the options on the right hand side.

Ventilation in classrooms:

In order to maximise ventilation in classrooms, windows and doors are kept slightly ajar. Students are still required to remove coats and hats inside, but if the teacher thinks the room is exceptionally cold, they may allow students to keep coats on, and the premises team will review the heating. If your child

is particularly sensitive to the cold, they can wear a vest/long sleeved t-shirt/thermal top under their school shirt as well as a black V-neck school jumper. Students are not allowed to wear hoodies or sweatshirts.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) on-site testing results this week:

To keep you informed, we have had a very small number of students with positive LFDs in each year group from Years 8 to 11 (at time of writing Year 7 have not yet finished testing). We also had a group of Year 12 students, and a small number of Year 13 students testing positive. The children testing on site have been fantastic – mature, informed, independent and confident.

Updated government guidance on Testing, Self-Isolation and Close Contacts:

Testing and Self Isolation:

1. Asymptomatic LFD positive results:

- From **Tuesday, 11 January** anyone who receives a positive LFD result and who does not have symptoms, is no longer required to take a confirmatory PCR test. Instead, they will be required to self-isolate immediately and report their result:

[Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

- If your child has tested positive through an LFD test, please also inform the school immediately.
- Anyone who tests positive on an LFD will be able to leave self-isolation 7 days after the date of their initial positive test, **if** they receive 2 negative LFD results, 24 hours apart, on days 6 and 7.

2. Symptomatic PCR positive results:

- **Anyone who develops one or more of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change of smell/taste) should stay at home, self-isolate and take a PCR test** (call 119 or go online to book a PCR test) and wait at home for the result. They **must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.**
- This period of self-isolation will end after 7 days if on *both* day 6 and day 7 a person receives a negative LFD test result.
- Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in regular asymptomatic LFD testing at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

Close Contacts of a positive case

If a student or a member of their household has been identified as a close contact by the NHS or lives with a person who has tested positive and is fully vaccinated or between the ages of 5 – 18 years and 6 months, they do not need to take a PCR test or self-isolate. Instead, students should take an LFD test every morning for 7 days and continue to attend school as normal as long as their test is negative, and they do not develop symptoms. There is no change to the guidance for unvaccinated contacts of people with COVID-19 who are still required to self-isolate for 10 full days after their date of exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

We are delighted to be fully up and running with all year groups in lessons from Monday. The measures in place within school are designed to support us all to keep face to face education going for our students and all of us play a part in enabling that to happen. I have thanked students in their weekly bulletin and staff in our staff briefing and I would also like to thank you for your ongoing support of our school and the wellbeing of our community and your partnership with us in support of your child.

I will write to you again with any further updates.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Charlotte Hames
Headteacher