

8th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Covid Lateral Flow Testing – Spring Term January 2022

As you are aware, the DfE announced that secondary schools are expected to test all students once on their return to school after the Christmas break, provided parental consent has been given. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

The most appropriate time to carry out these tests with the least amount of disruption is **Wednesday 5th January 2022** for the whole school. **Your child will need to attend school for their LFD test only on this day.**

As we have already collected consent from you from previous LFD testing, we will **not** be collecting this again, unless either of the following apply:

- 1) You now do **not** consent for your child to be tested.
- 2) You have received a positive PCR test result and therefore it is advised not to retest for a further 90 days as subsequent results may not be accurate.

For those for which the above applies, please complete the form below:

<https://forms.gle/i1JNxfAtZF8epVJB9>

As you can imagine, this is once again a mammoth task for us, and we would therefore appreciate if this could be completed by **Monday 13th December 2021**.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results. Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). To book a PCR test you can go to www.gov.uk/getcoronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourself, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text/email), you will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result, you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

Your child will be able to continue as normal and start school with everyone else on **Thursday 6th January 2022**. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

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If you are planning to bring your child to school in the car and wait for them, please be mindful of traffic outside of the school gate, as there is a traffic enforcement camera in operation. You will not be able to park inside the school.

Students do not need to come into school in their school uniform when testing.

Please find below first day arrangements:

Date	Time	Go to the Refectory first then Assembly Hall	Go to the Gym first then Sports Hall
Friday 17th December - Tuesday 4th January 2022 Christmas Holidays			
Wednesday 5th January 2022 (Attend school for testing only)	8:45am – 9:15am		Year 7
	8:45am – 9:15am	Year 8	
	10:00am-10:30am	Year 10	Year 9
	1:00pm	Year 12	Year 11
	1:30pm	Year 13 (Surname A-M)	Year 13 (Surname N-Z)
Thursday 6th January 2022 - return to school for all students at the normal times. It will be week 2 on the timetable.			

Thank you once again for your support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs R McLaren
Deputy Head Teacher