

Monday 13th December 2021



Important COVID-19 update

Dear Parent/Carer

As our term draws to a close and with Christmas ahead of us I would like to start by thanking you and your child for the tremendous efforts and support shown this term. This term has once again presented many challenges but our students have been amazing. Our summary bulletin will be shared shortly. Please be reminded of our **early closure on Friday 17th December at 12.20pm**. All those students with free school meals can pick up their lunch during the first break.

As I am sure you are aware there have been recent changes to the Covid measures that have been happening at both a local and national level. Across our part of the south west region, we are seeing a significant increase in positive Covid cases which, in turn, is having an impact on both our students and staff attendance across our College.

As a result of the new, highly transmissible Covid variant Omicron, students are strongly encouraged to take part in testing at home to allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible. Students will be provided with LFT tests to bring home next week and should continue to test themselves at home on Sunday evenings and then again on Wednesday - repeating this pattern each week until further notice. A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. We will be encouraging students to continue with daily cleaning procedures in school - sanitising hands on entry to classrooms and wiping desk areas. When in College, students are to wear face coverings in communal areas and we will do what we can to minimise the spread of infection and keep our College open for normal curriculum delivery.

If further local outbreaks occur we may be asked to apply our contingency plan, which could include face coverings at all times, social distancing, bubbles or even back to remote education off site. We want to avoid this, so your support with providing your child with face coverings and ensuring your child tests regularly is important throughout this period (it only takes a few minutes).

Returning to School - January 2022

I would like to clarify the arrangements ready for your child returning to us in January given the latest guidance we have received regarding COVID-19. Schools must provide two onsite Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) for all students, three days apart upon their return in January.

Years 7, 8, 11 and 13

Tuesday 4th January (currently a teacher training day) all students in Years 7, 8, 11 and 13 are to come into College for their first LFT. This will allow those with negative LFTs to begin lessons as normal on **Wednesday 5th January**. Please see times below to indicate when your child is able to attend College for a test. Please arrive via the sports gate (side line):

9.30 - 11am	- Year 7
11.30-1.30pm	- Year 8
2.00-4.00pm	- Year 11 and 13

A second test will take place on Thursday 6th January during a normal school day.

Years 9, 10 and 12

Wednesday 5th January students will arrive at College by 8.35am and will be given a LFT test. Lessons will be amended to enable students to remain in a class bubble until all tests are completed. Student timetables will be followed as usual once the testing process is completed.

A second test will take place on Friday 7th January during a normal school day.

We will assume previous consent, unless new to LFT or new to the school, in which case please complete the consent form [here](#).

A reminder that students will be expected to arrive back in full school uniform, including plain, black polishable shoes - we would therefore recommend that parents/carers prepare accordingly with the purchasing of appropriate footwear and uniform items. Can I remind students that all piercings, other than the permissible single gold/silver stud ear piercing, must be removable on return to the college, and any extreme hair colour or styles, false nails, nail polish or false eyelashes should have returned to normal by the first day back.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and festive break and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Spring Term in January 2022.

Yours sincerely



Anita Frier
Principal

Summary Table

Tuesday 4th January	Staff Only Day Year 7, 8, 11, 13 LFT Testing 1 only
Wednesday 5th January	All students return at 8.35am Normal school for all students Year 9, 10, 12 LFT Test 1
Thursday 6th January	Normal school day for all Year 7, 8, 11, 13 LFT Test 2
Friday 7th January	Normal school day for all Year 9, 10, 12 LFT Test 2