

Date: 15|12|2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: End of Autumn term and arrangements for January 2022

I think we can all agree that it has been a busy term and the holidays are much needed! It has been fantastic to see so many achievements for our young people this term; from EYFS to Year 13, they have worked hard, they have got involved in school life and continue to do their very best in their learning. I look forward to seeing this continue next term.

We finish for the Christmas holiday on **Friday 17th December**. Primary students should be collected from 11:45am. Secondary students will be dismissed from 11am. Those who wish to stay to eat at break time will leave site at 11:30. (16+ will finish after their lessons on Thursday 16th December).

Updated Coronavirus guidance

We have received updated guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) with regards to the requirement to self-isolate if identified as a close contact. A new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated, and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, who are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – **whether Omicron or not – should take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) every day for 7 days** from their last day of contact with the relevant person, **instead of self-isolating**. Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with Government guidelines if they are identified a close contact of a positive case.

Wednesday 5th January – start of term arrangements

Primary – all students arrive from 8.40am for the normal school day

We urge parents of **primary** children to do a lateral flow test at home on the night before or morning of returning to school. LFT kits can be collected from the reception desk.

Secondary & 16+

At the time of writing, the Government has asked us to offer all **secondary pupils**, for whom we have parental consent, an on-site Lateral Flow Test as they return to school for the start of term (see schedule below). **You will only be contacted if your son/daughter tests positive.**

All students must line up in the Atrium on arrival. Testing will take place in the main hall.

Time	Year group & notes
From 7:30 – 8:40	16+ and Y11 lateral flow test. 16+ make their way to form time/period 1
08:40	Y11 begin their mock examinations
09:00	Y10 lateral flow test then make their way to period 1
09:45	Y9 lateral flow test then make their way to period 1/period 2
10:30	Y8 lateral flow test then make their way to period 2/break

11-11.30	Break 1 for 16+, Y11, Y10, Y9
11:15	Y7 lateral flow test then make their way to period 3
12.30	Period 4
13.30 –14.00	Break 2 for all students
14:00 – 15:00	Period 5
15:00	End of school day

If this schedule presents any logistical problems in terms of transporting siblings in different year groups at different times, we are happy to be flexible and minimise any inconvenience to you. Please bring any younger siblings to school at the arrival time of their older sibling.

Pupils and students who have tested positive for COVID-19 since 5th October 2021 (in line with the current 90-days guidance) do not need to have a LFT on 5th January 2022 but they must come to school at the time slot for their year group. They will simply notify the member of staff who is guiding them into the hall and go straight to their lesson.

Communication with parents

Given the evolving situation, guidance may well be subject to change. Whilst I will endeavour not to disturb you during the Christmas holidays, please do keep an eye on your emails and the website as I will contact you should it be necessary.

A gentle reminder that we publish our **weekly newsletter every Friday** – a notification is sent to you via the SIMS app, via email and the newsletter is available on the website. I have seen this to be a hugely popular new addition this term and I would encourage you to read it to/with your children to keep informed of the most up-to-date school news as well as celebrate their successes and those of their peers.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I do hope that you and your families stay well and manage to enjoy a lovely Christmas break.

Kind regards

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Clare Cross

Acting Principal