THE SYDNEY RUSSELL SCHOOL

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Date: 03|01|2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Start of term arrangements - January 2022

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a restful holiday and I wish you and your families health and happiness for the year ahead.

I am pleased to confirm our start of term arrangements for this week. All students will return to school on Wednesday 5th January at the specific times set out below.

In line with updated government guidance, we request that all secondary students bring their own mask to school and wear it in classrooms as well as in corridors for the coming weeks. This guidance is in place until at least 26th January. Further updates will be provided in due course.

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. We encourage parents to wear a mask as they drop off/collect their children.

Secondary & 16+

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.**

Government guidance has changed in terms of anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days (since 5th October). Guidance now requests that those who have completed their 10-day isolation period resume conduct of regular Lateral Flow testing.

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.

Keeping everyone safe

In school we will continue to promote hand hygiene and ventilation as well as regular cleaning during the school day to reduce risk. As windows will be open, children are encouraged to wear discrete base-layers for comfort.

These measures, coupled with the support from parents and carers with regular home testing, meant there was minimal disruption last term, in fact, we were in an enviable position to invite families to school events to celebrate the festivities. We ask that parents and carers continue this vigilance this term and we ask you to support home testing at least twice weekly. We hope to have sufficient supplies to be able to send kits home with the children in the coming week.

We continue to adhere to 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.

I will continue to update you via our weekly Friday newsletter as well as publish any additional guidance we receive via the website, and I thank you in advance for your support – I can assure you we will be doing everything we can to keep school running safely for all.

Kind regards,

Clare Cross

Acting Principal