

## First week of term-COVID update

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Happy new year! I hope you managed to have some rest over the break.


The first four days of term have been very busy and filled with great learning in lessons. As always, I have been very impressed with the resilience and positive attitude shown by our students. Thank you for all your support last term, and with equipping and ensuring students have been ready to learn this week. I just have a few reminders to mention, particularly regarding the current COVID rules.




**On-site testing.** On Tuesday, we carried out almost 500 lateral flow tests, which did highlight a very small number of positive cases. This underlined the importance of testing and will have reduced the spread of the virus this week.

**Home testing.** Home testing kits were re-issued to most students during registration this morning and the remainder will be visited on Monday. I would remind students that they can also collect kits from reception, or the Academy Office on the ground floor whenever they need them. Please remember to log test results on the NHS app or website, and here: <https://lft.medicaltracker.co.uk/>. For now, if you do have a positive result, you should still book for a confirmatory PCR test. Of course, self- testing is optional (it is not compulsory for students to have done them in order to attend school) but we do encourage you to take part where possible, to help keep the community safe.

**Face coverings.** Students are, for now, required to wear face coverings whenever they are inside at school (unless they are sitting down to eat). This is not ideal, and can be uncomfortable, but we are very pleased with the compliance of the vast majority of students. Students are also required to wear a face covering when using all public transport to and from school. COVID is airborne, and so wearing face coverings does seem a logical way to prevent its spread, and ultimately make sure the school can remain open to all, by reducing staff and student absence. This is a message we are giving out in school regularly, and I would be grateful if you could also reinforce this at home. Of course, some students are medically exempt from this, and have been issued with passes by Mr O'Sullivan.

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**Home isolation following a positive result.** If your child does have a positive result, They should begin self-isolation. If they develop symptoms (with or without a test), they should begin isolation **and** book a PCR. Your child should now be able to end their self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. They can take an LFD test from 6 days after the day the symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if there were no symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and there is not a high temperature, the self-isolation can end after the second negative test result (day 7).

**Home isolation where family members have tested positive.** Students do not have to self-isolate if a family member testes positive, as they are under 18. For more information, please click [here](#).

**Work for isolating students.** Teachers are currently posting almost all lessons on Google Classroom as “materials”. Student who are isolating should complete this work and submit it.

Thank you once again for all of your support through this difficult time where rules and guidance are changing so frequently. Please remember, if you have any questions at all, please do get in touch with us. This should be through your child’s tutor in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Mr T. Beecham  
Deputy Principal