

InTouch message, Tuesday 4 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support of our return to school testing programme. Whilst we have seen a clear increase in the number of positive cases amongst both staff and students from those seen last term, the numbers currently appear to be at a manageable level.

We each have a personal responsibility to those around us and we will be reiterating our expectations regarding this to students in form time tomorrow. One of the ways in which you can help is by ensuring your child has two face coverings with them each day to help support our mitigation measures. Students will also be required to have a set of earphones at all times as there will be occasions where staff who are isolating set cover work that requires students to work individually on their Chromebooks.

Changes to government guidance on isolation periods, in addition to the current high infection rates have made the recording, monitoring and administration of Coronavirus related absence more challenging. I ask that all parents and carers familiarise themselves with the information below in order to support us in maintaining an environment that is as safe as possible.

Asymptomatic testing

We ask that all students complete twice weekly lateral flow tests each Sunday and Wednesday. Results of these tests should be submitted at the following link [Reporting Asymptomatic Testing](#).

You may be aware that there is currently a national shortage of Lateral Flow Device testing kits. We have been assured that we will be receiving further stock this week which will then be distributed promptly to students.

In the event of a positive LFD Test or PCR Test

If your child tests positive for Coronavirus we ask that you complete the following form ASAP. [Confirmed Coronavirus Case - Important Information](#). The form requests basic information that we are required by the government to monitor in order to help mitigate against further infection. You do not also need to e-mail or phone the school to report the absence.

Returning to school following a period of isolation

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days if the criteria below are met.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation and may return to school. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. Results of LFD tests taken on day 6 and day 7 should be reported via the following link (even if tests are positive) [End of Isolation Period Testing](#). We will use this information to know when to expect your child back in school.

Government guidance states that students return to school after day 10 of isolation even if they are still returning positive LFD test results, as after this point there is very little risk of further transmission.

Please be aware that the first day of the isolation period (day one) is the day *after* the onset of symptoms/positive test ie: the onset of symptoms/positive test is 'day zero'.

Attendance expectations

Attendance for all students remains mandatory and remote provision will not be provided for students unless they have recently tested positive for coronavirus. All students are expected to return to school on Wednesday 5 January unless they are required to self-isolate.

Close contacts of a positive case

Students who are a close contact of someone with Coronavirus should take a LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. Students no longer need to work from home if they are a household contact of a positive case.

Remote education provision

Teaching staff will be informed of any Coronavirus related absence and work will be available for students if they are well enough to engage with it. Students will be able to access this work via their Google Classroom accounts. Where possible, remote provision will be in the form of a 'live' lesson. Please be aware that we are experiencing significant levels of staff absence and delivery of 'live' lessons may not always be possible.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

M Jones
Headmaster