

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term, we would like to thank you for your continued support, particularly in recent weeks where we have experienced an increase in Covid cases.

Unfortunately, this increase in case numbers has resulted in the return of a number of on-site restrictions and, as you will no doubt be aware, the government has once again asked schools to set up Asymptomatic Testing Sites in January, and that students complete an on-site LFT prior to their return. The department for Education has stated, 'Secondary schools will have the option to stagger the return to school for the first week to accommodate on-site testing. Schools have the flexibility to consider how best to deliver the one test on return according to their circumstances.'

We have considered student numbers in each year group, along with the total number of tests we can complete in one day, and have decided on the testing / return schedule outlined below, which involves a staggered return in January, as per the DfE guidance.

Year	Day of Testing	Day of Return to School – Week 2 of		
Group		the school timetable		
11	Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Wednesday 5 th January 2022		
10	Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Wednesday 5 th January 2022		
7	Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Thursday 6 th January 20222		
8	Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Thursday 6 th January 2022		
9	Thursday 6 th January 2022	Friday 7 th January 2022		

We apologise for any inconvenience related to the practicalities of executing this plan, particularly where you have children in different year groups, but we have had to balance testing requirements with testing capacity, the safety of our school community, and a return to education as soon as possible for every child.

When allocating appointment times, we will use consent provided for previous on-site testing as default. However, if your circumstances have changed, or you have not previously completed a consent form because your child is new to the school, then please click the link below to complete a short form, providing consent for testing.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jem3QMUZmEyGRuANLqs3V1ZxBqMMh01LtX7BR pdmWIUQkRZNTZRQUpJRE9NSVIIRDBRSIQzSDU3QS4u

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In order to mitigate the impact of any delay to the return of your child to school, staff will be delivering live learning sessions, which will take place as per your child's school timetable. As was the case during school closure, your child will receive a notification of the live learning session in their calendar on Teams, and they will need to click the link to join the session. During this week, we will be providing students with a refresher course on live learning sessions so all students will understand how to join, what to expect, and what is expected of them. Live learning sessions will take place on the following days:

• Tuesday 4th January 2022: all year groups

• Wednesday 5th January: Years 7, 8 and 9.

Thursday 6th January: Year 9.

A further communication will be shared with you containing the time of your child's test. We appreciate your support in ensuring that your child attends on time.

When your child does arrive for their test, please them to arrive at the High Street Yard, and they will be directed to enter through the Sports Hall for the test. Staff will also be on site to advise and direct your child to the designated area.

Please note that you will not be permitted to accompany your child inside, but we would appreciate it if you could remain in your car/ outside on foot, where you will be directed to wait for your child. We anticipate that the testing will take approximately 30 minutes.

Testing kits will be provided to your child on the day. Please could also you ensure that your child knows their home address as we have discovered that a number of students do not know this information, and this does slow down the registration process considerably.

We would very much like to thank you in advance for supporting us in ensuring that the testing process is completed as safely and as efficiently as possible.

Please note that we finish for the Christmas break at 12pm on Friday 17th December 2021. We have made Paul's Coaches and D&G aware of the earlier finish time, and both services will be available.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming the students back to school in January.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Henshaw

Mrs J Hingley

Executive Principal

Associate Principal