

Ref DJB/AQG/Letters/12 Parent Carer 4 January 2022

4 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy new year; I hope you have had a good festive break.

Beginning of Term

Tuesday, 4 January 2022 is a staff training day.

The government require us to run lateral flow testing again in January and as such, the beginning of term will be a staggered start. Please see the table below. If you have previously consented, you do not need to complete the form. If you would like to consent to testing, you should complete the form at:

<https://forms.office.com/r/mZkALyWCg1>

Wednesday, 5 January 2022			
Y7	08:35-10:20 LFT	Periods 1 and 2	Diamond Suite
Y11	11:00-12:35 LFT	Periods 3 and 4	Diamond Suite
Y13	13:30-15:05 LFT	Period 5	Diamond Suite – then Home
Thursday, 6 January 2022			
Y8	08:35-10:20 LFT	Periods 1 and 2	Diamond Suite
Y10	11:00-12:35 LFT	Periods 3 and 4	Diamond Suite
Y12	13:30-15:05 LFT	Period 5	Diamond Suite – then Home
Friday, 7 January 2022			
Y9	08:35-10:35 LFT	Periods 1 and 2	Diamond Suite

Individual timings for student arrival have been emailed, and are also included in the parent calendar which is attached. All students are required to enter via Gate 1 on Reddicap Heath Road, and proceed directly to the Diamond Suite to register.

Covid Protective Measures

Following the announcement this weekend, all students that are not exempt, will be expected to wear a face covering whenever inside the school building, including in lesson time. Please ensure your child attends school each day with a clean face covering. If they are using the disposable type, that are prone to breaking, please ensure your child has a spare.

Please take the time to remind your child how to use a face covering effectively. How to wear a face mask safely:

1. Face masks must only be worn once. Once taken off they are no longer safe to use.
2. If your mask is reusable then it should be stored in a sealed plastic bag until it has been washed.
3. If it is a disposable face mask then it must be placed into the bin.

4. Clean face masks should be kept in a sealed plastic bag
5. To wear a face mask correctly you need to:
 - Wash hands first
 - Make sure it covers your nose and your mouth and is fastened securely around your ears
 - Use the ties/elastics to apply it. You should not touch the inside or outside of your mask.
 - If your mask gets damp you should not wear it again
 - Re-useable masks must be washed every use

The Academy follows the DfE guidance on Covid measures. Part of these measures is to encourage regular lateral flow testing to identify asymptomatic positive cases. Please support your child to continue to lateral flow test each Sunday and Wednesday, and log the outcome of their test at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

Students will continue to be encouraged to exercise good hand hygiene by washing/sanitising their hands regularly. They are also reminded to exercise good respiratory hygiene by coughing/sneezing into a tissue, disposing of the tissue hygienically and then washing their hands. Please send your child to school with a clean tissue and, if possible, a pocket-sized bottle of sanitiser.

Enhanced cleaning remains in place and all rooms are ventilated. As the weather becomes colder, please ensure your child wears appropriate plain under layers and a plain black V-neck jumper in order to stay warm. As social time remains outdoors, students should wear an appropriate hooded coat (fabric hoodies are not permitted).

Isolation Guidance

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 was introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19. Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the Online Reporting System and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the Sunday 12 December press release.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Thank you for your ongoing support with the measures listed.

Yours sincerely



MRS D J BUNN
Head of Academy

Attachment: Calendar