



Headteacher
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the opportunity to succeed

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10th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carer(s),

Re: January 2022 return to school– testing procedure

As you will most likely know we have been told to test students on their return to school after the Christmas break. There is limited guidance on how we should organise this. Some schools are staggering the return to school following the testing. Some schools are spreading the testing over a few days.

We will be testing all students on **Wednesday 5th January 2022** and inviting all students, following their test, to return to school on **Thursday 6th January 2022**.

We have an extra day on **4th January 2022**. This is in lieu of a day for The Queen's Birthday. Local Primary schools generally all chose the Monday after May half term but secondary schools could not have this date because of GCSE and A-Level exams. I had considered asking staff to change the date of this day off in lieu but many will have made plans to visit relatives elsewhere in the UK and some further afield. Similarly, many of you will have done the same and so disrupting plans in order to test on that day seemed unwise. This way all those eligible to be tested will be available on **Wednesday 5th January**.

In order to test the whole school population on one day I need all staff to support with the testing regime and so we will be inviting year groups in one year at a time. We will be testing one year group per hour. Brothers and sisters, especially those who need to be driven into school, may come for their test at the same time.

Whilst students will be able to socially distance when they come for their test, we ask everyone to test the day or morning before they come in. This is because before they come into school and after the test on the way home they greet each other like long lost friends rather than those who have just had a two week break from school. The reason this is significant now is because if anyone is positive they will, as now, be asked to have a PCR and if this shows that they have the Omicron variant then all family household members and close contacts will be asked to isolate.

We will begin testing at 9:00am and the schedule is below. Siblings may come to be tested at the same time.

Years 12 and 13	9:00am – 11:00am
Year 11	9:00am – 10:00am
Year 10	10:00am – 11:00am
Year 9	11:00am – 12:00pm
Year 8	12:00pm – 1:00pm
Year 7	1:00pm – 2:00pm

Anyone who has tested positive in the last 90 days before 5th January, so since **Thursday 7th October 2021**, should not be tested on the 5th January and will not be expected to come to school.

Students should report to the Sports Hall as for previous testing and should bring a mask with them. There is parking but this will be limited as we are inviting potentially 200 students per hour, so if students can walk we ask that they do.

We are using the consent forms from last March 2021 and September 2021 and so if you gave consent then there is no need to re-consent.



You need only give consent if you are new to the school and have not been asked for consent or if you previously did not consent as your child was within 90 days of a positive test. You may also consent if you previously declined. If you wish to withdraw consent previously given then please also respond by completing the information via this [LINK](#).

I would appreciate a response to the consent before **Wednesday 15th December** as we need to set up and scan registration cards for all those who are being tested and as you can imagine this takes a while. It also allows us to follow up any queries before the end of term.

Your support with this is very much appreciated as is the effort you are making to continue to test twice a week, including over the Christmas break.

Please take care and thank you so much.

Yours sincerely,



Debbie Smith
Headteacher

