

5th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We were delighted to welcome students back into school yesterday and particularly pleased to see them back in lessons and starting the new year engaging well with their learning. We hope you have all had a restful Christmas and are ready for the new year to come.

With the increasing levels of the Omicron variant, we want to ensure all parents are clear on the recent changes to the government guidance. Our aim is to keep the number of staff and students required to self-isolating to a minimum, thus ensuring the best education for all our learners as safely as possible. By keeping everyone as safe as possible, we hope to avoid having to move once again to distance learning for all our students.

Important to know

- Students will now be required to wear a mask in the classroom as well as communal spaces.
- We will continue to implement measures in our contingency plans as and when case numbers increase, in co-ordination with local government advice.
- Students who test positive and self-isolate may now return on day 8, if they test negative on an LFT test on both day 6 and 7 of their self-isolation period. They will need two successive days of negative results before their return.
- Students who have tested positive in the last 90 days can take LFT tests as normal, and will now need negative LFT results before they can return to school.
- Students who are a close contact to a positive case in their household should attend school and complete daily LFT testing for 10 days. Where possible school will support with this daily testing in school. Please let us know your child is a close contact to someone in their household, so we can support with testing.
- Students will continue to be given boxes of LFT tests to bring home on a regular basis.

The government has announced yesterday that from the 10th January anyone testing positive on an LFT test will no longer need to complete a confirmatory PCR test. They will start their isolation period from the day of the positive LFT result and should log positive LFT results on the national website. If a student tests positive on an LFT in school, we will follow this same procedure and inform parents accordingly.

Although the new year will undoubtedly bring fresh challenges, we look forward to meeting them. We hope you are still managing to uphold any new year resolutions you have made and wish everyone a successful 2022.

Attached is a more detailed letter from Colin Cox, Director of Public Health CCC, to all parents/carers.

If you have any questions regarding our return, please contact the main school office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. E. Hailwood', written in a cursive style.

Tom Hailwood
Headteacher