

ST/KJP  
14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well.

As you are aware, the Government, via the Department for Education, has now issued new COVID-19 guidance for schools effective from Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021, in line with the wider removal of COVID-19 restrictions throughout the country from that same date.

As our last day of school is Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, we will have the same bubble system and COVID-19 measures in place for the remainder of this school year.

### Consent for testing

Testing remains voluntary. If your child will be in Year 7 – 11 from September, parents/carers will need to provide consent for onsite testing. Please fill in the consent form on our website. The link can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/vfdbbmr> or by scanning the QR code below.



We will be taking advantage of the 'bulk upload' facility for schools so that we can process the registration for the testing more efficiently. It is therefore important that the consent form is completed by **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> August** if you want your child to receive a test on site. We will be unable to process a test for any student we have not received consent for. Sixth Form students will provide their own consent by registering on the testing day.

### Test One – Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> August

Students to arrive during the time slot for their year group, as below:

Year 7	9.00 - 10.00am
Year 8	10.15 -11.15am
Year 9	11.30 - 12.30pm
Year 10	12.45 – 1.45pm
Year 11	1.45 – 2.45pm
Years 12/13	3.00 – 3.30pm

### Administering lateral flow tests

All lateral flow testing to be carried out in school is self-administered. The tests used will be a double swab to the nose. Even where consent is given by a parent, the child must be willing and able to carry out the swabbing under adult supervision. Trained school staff and volunteers will be on hand to support students throughout this process. Please note that if a child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days, they will be exempt from testing.

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### **What if a student tests positive?**

If a student tests positive using a lateral flow test, parents and carers will be contacted directly by a member of school staff in addition to the notification they will receive via the NHS system. If a student receives a positive result they will need to self-isolate in accordance with national guidance.

### **Change in restrictions and contact-tracing**

We understand how frustrating it is for students, families and staff at present, with self-isolation having an impact on school attendance for some students. From 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, it has been confirmed that children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Individuals will still need to follow guidance to take a test if they display symptoms and self-isolate if they test positive. Schools are expected to have outbreak management plans outlining how they would operate if there were an outbreak in the school or local area; we will continue to work with Public Health England should the need arise. This will mean that if the situation requires it, a bubble system or other measures may need to be temporarily reinstated in the future, and we must stress that the safety measures in place will be continually reviewed and assessed in accordance with Government and local guidance.

### **Face coverings**

Face coverings will no longer be advised for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. Face coverings are also no longer legally required on public transport.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. As such, we will be continuing to encourage good hygiene including regular handwashing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. As was the case at the start of the pandemic when we had to adjust to a new way of life, this new change again may inevitably create some uncertainty as we all adapt. However, we will continue to work closely together as a school community to ensure the best outcomes for students, staff and our wider community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr Stuart Turnbull  
Principal

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