

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your families are safe and healthy and have had a restful break and have been able to enjoy Christmas. We wish you all a Happy New Year. We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school this week, and we want to take this opportunity to provide you with some key information for the new term as well as some reminders of what was sent out at the end of last term.

We look forward to seeing students for Lateral Flow testing starting on Tuesday 4th January and welcoming students back to school for the new term at 8:30am on Wednesday 5th January (Yr 10, 11 and Sixth Form) and the whole school on Thursday 6th January.

[Please see the schedule for testing here.](#)

With the onset of Omicron and the rapid increase in cases nationally, there has been a lot of press speculation about changes to policy, at the time of writing the government has updated the face coverings section to include the use of face coverings in classrooms for Year 7 and above. [Please read full details here.](#)

[For all the details on the most recent government guidance, please click here.](#)

Consequently, in addition to the previous suspension of large-scale gatherings of students and staff, **from Tuesday January 4th we will require all staff, students, and visitors to wear a face-covering in all indoor school areas, including classrooms, except when eating.** If your child is exempt from wearing a face-covering, we asked you to email their HOY or Mrs Rose (rose.j@thenorwoodschool.org) so that we can arrange for an exemption card, which must be worn at all times. We have been advised that face masks will be worn in all spaces except outdoors and when eating until Jan 26th in the first instance. We strongly recommend that your child has their own reusable mask, we will be charging 50p via Parentpay to any student who needs to purchase a mask from reception or their HOY.

As always, our key aims remain to:

1. minimise the spread of the virus
2. maintain the health and safety of all members of our community including staff, students, parents and family members.
3. minimise the disruption to your child's education at the start of the new term.

Testing

As you are aware, [Lateral Flow Device Testing will take place on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th January 2022.](#) Students must arrive at their dedicated time and make their way, via the Elder Road entrance to the small Gym. They will exit via the Crown Lane front entrance. Please ensure that your child sticks to the appointment time - if your child arrives late, we may need to ask your child to return at a later time. Equally, your child should not arrive too early, as it will make social distancing more difficult. In addition, all students and

staff should also continue to test at home at least twice a week, and we will continue to supply the Lateral Flow Tests for students to carry this out.

You may have also noticed that there has been some alterations to the advice given on isolating. Isolation can be cut to 7 days if the positive case tests negative on two consecutive days with a LFT after day 6.

Close contacts must test daily for 7 days if vaccinated or under the age of 18 and 6months. Adults, over the age of 18years 6 months who aren't vaccinated, must be isolate for 10 days. Those students in households of a positive case can attend school as long as they test negative daily for the 7-10 days that the positive case isolates for and should get a PCR test done.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, we appreciate your continuing support and understanding,

With kind regards,

The Norwood School