

20th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you most probably know, the rules about COVID testing have recently changed.

Just to clarify what the expectations are now and particular with respect to mask wearing from today 20th January

a) Masks: the government has just announced that the requirement to wear masks in school classrooms is to be lifted with effect from tomorrow. However, at the time of writing, masks are still required in communal areas in school. We are delighted with this news! What this means for today and going forward is as follows: - ***Students will still need to bring their own mask with them to school (if travelling on public transport they will need to wear one on the bus/train) - On arrival at school, masks must be put on to get into the building and must be kept on whilst travelling around inside the school buildings, in communal areas and into classrooms - Once inside their classrooms staff and students may remove their masks if they wish. Please note if they need to purchase a mask from the school they will be charged 50p.***

b) No need for a confirmatory PCR for people testing positive with an LFD test: from 11th January the arrangements relating to which type of test you need to take changed. People without COVID symptoms are advised to take regular lateral flow device (LFD) tests in order to be sure of their COVID status. We have been providing our students with kits to use at home for this purpose. If you or your child get a positive result on an LFD test and they have no symptoms, this is taken as sufficient evidence that there is COVID infection and there is no need for a confirmatory PCR test. However, if your child has symptoms of COVID, then they should take a PCR test. If either an LFD or PCR test is positive, the self-isolation rules as per the below must be followed.

When you phone in to school to let us know that your child won't be coming in it would be really helpful if you could let us know either what symptoms they have, or that they have tested positive but have no symptoms. If they have tested positive please send a photo of the LFD to the school.

c) Changes to self-isolation rules: from 17th January, people testing positive for COVID are able to stop self-isolating and return to work/school after five full days, subject to having two negative LFD results, 24 hours apart. The day symptoms begin or the day of the positive test result if different counts as day zero. This means that, if you take a test first thing in the morning on day 5 and again on day 6, if both are negative and your temperature is normal, you can return to work/school. If one or both are positive, you should continue testing daily and can return when you have two consecutive negative results. This continues up to and including day 10. If you are still testing positive but have no symptoms, you can return to school/work on day 11. This is because some people will continue to test positive even when they are no longer infectious. These rules apply equally to people who are vaccinated and those who are not.

Regards

Ms Nicholas
Senior Deputy Headteacher