

9 December 2021

Dear Parents

On Wednesday 8 December, the Prime Minister announced the implementation of [Plan B of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan](#), to reduce pressure on the NHS. Plan B sets out a number of additional measures across society to control transmission of COVID-19.

The Government is clear on the critical importance of not disrupting the education of children and young people and the Government will prioritise keeping all education and childcare settings open.

We will continue to follow advice and review our risk assessments.

- Face coverings should be worn in transit around the school. Boys should arrive at lessons with their masks on and put them on before they leave the lesson.
- Please could all parents/visitors to the school site wear a face covering (unless you are exempt). We also strongly encourage all visitors to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before entering School.
- Please ensure that your son comes to school with a coat or layers; the windows and doors are being kept open for ventilation so boys can become colder than usual sitting in the classrooms.

JANUARY RETURN

The Government have asked all secondary schools to provide an on-site test for pupils on return in January. Testing in school helps to boost participation and will help reduce transmission after a period of mixing over the holidays.

We will be testing all students on Tuesday 4 January and Wednesday 5 January

To facilitate the testing, we will need to delay the start of the term as follows:

Tuesday 4 January

Years 11, 12 and 13 to attend for COVID-19 testing only (*no uniform required*)

All other years are not expected in school.

Wednesday 5 January

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 to attend for COVID-19 testing only (*no uniform required*).

Year 11 and 13 Mocks start.

Year 12 Study Leave day.

Thursday 6 January

Years 7-10 and Year 12 return to their normal timetables. Year 11 and 13 Mocks continue.

We are asking for your consent for COVID-19 mass testing for students. This consent is needed for all students, regardless of whether consent has been given previously. This is due to updates in testing, the requirement to update our consent records and the intake of new students. The e-consent form will be sent to you via the School's compliance system, Evolve.

We will provide full details of the COVID-19 testing next week, including timings.

COVID-19 TESTING

Twice weekly home testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) remains recommended for the families of school-aged children. These are available for free, see [this link](#) to order. This helps to identify if you or your child is infected so that others in the school and wider community can be protected. Students will continue to be provided with home testing kits as per the DfE home testing programme.

Please note that this type of testing is only for people without symptoms of COVID-19 and if you test positive, or if you have symptoms of COVID-19, you need to self-isolate and arrange for a free confirmatory PCR test via [this link](#).

COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES

Please remember, if a Lateral Flow (LFD) home test is positive, your son should not attend School and should arrange to have a PCR test within 2 days. If the PCR test is negative, please inform attendance@rgshw.com of the result and he may return to school. If the PCR test is positive, your son needs to self-isolate in line with NHS England guidelines. Please log your son's test result on the [NHS Test and Trace](#) website and inform attendance@rgshw.com of his expected return to School date.

SELF ISOLATION

If you or your son is identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron COVID-19 variant you will be required to self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test, even if you are fully vaccinated.

If you or your son is a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, you will not have to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

In either case you should book a PCR test.

COVID-19 HOME TESTING DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD

The DfE has stated school staff and students should test over the Christmas break in line with [national guidance](#), for example, do a test before you:

- Mix with people in crowded indoor places
- Visit someone who is at [higher risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19](#).

Please note, once back in School for the Spring Term we revert to twice weekly home testing.

TRAVEL

Please also be aware of the current changes to UK and international travel arrangements. A number of countries have been added to the red list (requiring compulsory self-isolation in a UK government quarantine facility on arrival into the UK, at personal cost) and additionally, from 4am on Tuesday 30 November travellers are required to take a PCR test within two days after arrival in the UK and crucially to self-isolate until they receive a negative PCR result. If this situation continues over the Christmas period, it will have implications for anyone travelling back to the UK in time for the start of the Spring Term.

Yours sincerely



Iain Wilson
Deputy Headmaster