

## HEADMASTER'S LETTER

4 January 2022

Dear Parent

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and trust that you all managed a relaxing Christmas break.

It has been good to see students this morning, arriving for their Lateral Flow Tests in the makeshift 'field hospital' in the Sports Hall. I should like to thank parents for their support of this process and to staff who have administered the tests on a rota system.

I hope that we can benefit from a start of term with minimal disruption; your support, thus far, has been greatly appreciated and I know that we all have the same intent, namely to ensure that all of our boys received the best possible education at RGS. I should like to commend students.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish Year 11 and Year 13 every success with their Mock Examinations, which commence tomorrow. The Queen's Hall heating is working sufficiently well for a comfortable examination environment. Given the need to keep the space well-ventilated, however, we recommend that boys wear a jumper and bring a coat, just in case the weather turns very cold.

- Masks in exams – we have taken advice from our representative at UKHSA who have said given there is adequate spacing and the exam rooms are well ventilated, students may take their masks off when at their exam desk if they choose to
- If unwell or test positive, email [attendance@rgshw.com](mailto:attendance@rgshw.com) with clear information/details of the reason for absence to enable HOY to liaise about catch up mocks

[Here](#) is the January 2 update for Parents from the DfE.

### Some highlights, changes from previous guidance and further links:

- We are testing students today and tomorrow following which all students and staff should test twice weekly, including those who have had Covid within the last 90 days. They should report results to [NHS Test and Trace](#). Testing kits will be given out this week for students to continue testing at home.
- Face coverings and masks should be worn in classrooms as well as in communal areas. We have followed Government guidance on face coverings throughout the Pandemic and I remain confident that all boys, unless exempt, will readily comply with this measure which will be reviewed on 26 January 2022. If boys forget their mask, a disposable one can be purchased from the Student Hub or Resources.
- The Government intends that all GCSE and A Level examinations will take place this Summer. This was confirmed by the Secretary of State on television yesterday. We are all aware of sudden changes in intent, so I would urge all boys to stay on top of their work and assessments.
- We continue to ventilate classrooms by keeping windows open. Whilst I am not keen on boys wearing coats in classrooms (and will certainly put a stop to it at the earliest opportunity!), it is a simple fact that cold students will not learn effectively; coats, therefore, are permitted in lessons until the weather changes.

You may also wish to scan through the DfE Guidance for Schools, which was distributed yesterday:

- [Stay at home guidance](#) for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection
- [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation](#) new vaccination advice for children and young people

With best wishes

**Philip Wayne**