

14/12/2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to give you as much notice as possible about what the start of next term will look like so that you can plan ahead.

Staggered start so schools can test students on their return

The Department of Education has asked all secondary schools to test students once on their return after Christmas, which unfortunately involve a staggered start to the term. I'm sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but we hope to minimise this by letting you know this far in advance.

Wednesday 5th January

- School reopens on Wednesday 5th January for students in **Years 10 and 11 only**.
- Year 12 students are not in school on Wednesdays and should attend their external placements as planned (we will confirm start dates and write to Year 12 parents and carers separately).
- Students with consent will be supported to self-test.
- It will be a full school day.

Thursday 6th January

- Only students in **Years 7, 8 and 9** should attend school.
- Year 12 should attend their external placements.
- Students with consent will be supported to self-test.
- It will be a full school day.

Friday 7th January

- All students should be in school for the whole day.
- Year 12 students with consent will be supported to self-test.

Any other students that have been absent will also be supported to self-test where we have consent

	Weds 5 Jan	Thurs 6 Jan	Fri 7 Jan
Y7		test 1	
Y8		test 1	
Y9		test 1	
Y10	test 1		
Y11	test 1		
Y12	external	external	test 1

What if things change?

One thing is sure at the moment: expect the unexpected! Sometimes we have to change plans if advised to by the Department for Education or Public Health England; we will continue to keep you informed as soon as things change.

School Coronavirus update

As I write this, we only have 1 confirmed positive case of covid, with a few waiting for PCR test results. Thank you so much to all parents testing their children; it really is keeping others safe. As a parent myself I know it is hard work to keep doing this, so I really do appreciate your efforts. Although all secondary age children have been asked to test twice-weekly, you are able to do this more often if it will help keep your family safer.

Staff daily testing

All our staff have been advised to self-test daily until the end of term so we can catch any potential cases early and this is working well. A positive lateral flow result means isolation unless a negative PCR result comes through rapidly.

Attendance

Attendance at school is still mandatory for all children of school age unless they are unwell or isolating.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,



Mr Kevin McDonnell
Headteacher