

04 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! We all hope that 2022 will be a great year for all our students and their families.

During the break, there have been some changes to guidance and expectations issued by the Government. I have summarised the key changes we have made as a result of the guidance and increased infection rates. We will review this following the Government review on 26th January.

As always, our priority is the safety of students and staff. By keeping staff and students well, this also ensures that as many students as possible continue their education on site with face to face learning. Like most schools, we had to deal with high levels of covid related staff absence last term. Very high staff absence levels could ultimately affect us being able to have all students in school. This is not a position we wish to face, so it is imperative that we take all the measures we can to keep learning in school.

Face coverings

The Government has announced that all secondary aged students should wear face coverings in classrooms and communal spaces. Please ensure that your child/ren leave for school each day with coverings. We have a very limited supply in school and found ourselves giving out significant quantities last term, which regrettably, we simply cannot sustain.

Last year, your children demonstrated a perfect attitude to this measure. I was incredibly impressed with how we all worked together to help keep each other and our families as safe as possible.

Visitors to school

We are limiting visitors to school to essential meetings with visitors being requested to take a LFD prior to attending the school site. This includes not allowing equipment or belongings to be dropped off in reception during the school day, so we will be encouraging our students to be especially organised over the next few weeks.

Testing for students after the holiday period

The Government has asked that secondary school students undertake one on-site test, on return this week. This will help boost testing participation, identify positive cases, and reduce transmission after a period of social mixing during the holidays. Students should then be strongly encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) and to their setting. Mrs Simpson, Operations Manager wrote to you last term with our testing schedule for tomorrow.

Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site through ATS or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

Reporting a positive test result to us this term

Please email the school on enquiries@oakmoor.hants.sch.uk to advise of a positive LFD or PCR test result.

Clarification on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further information, including examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms, is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Thank you for your continued support. Among our students, we have had relatively low levels of infection throughout the pandemic and we hope that by working together as we have done so far, this will continue to be the case, so that we can all help keep each other and our families as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mr P. Hemmings
Headteacher