

17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Richard Brand: Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

**Plans for returning to school in January and Lateral Flow Testing**

I am writing to let you know the current plans for student return in January. **As it stands school will re-open on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to all students.** Our intention is to get students into lessons as quickly as possible as soon as they have taken one LFD test.

The Government has instructed all schools to conduct lateral flow testing for Covid-19 from January; these tests give 30-minute results, with the aim of allowing more students and staff to stay in school. We will begin testing on the Tuesday morning and our aim is to arrange our testing centre to allow all students across the school to be tested and in lessons by period 3. For us to achieve this it is important for students to arrive to school promptly, according to the schedule below, and report to their muster area.

Group of Students		Arrival time
Any child who takes a bus to get to school should take the bus as normal		0845 as normal
Remaining students who do not normally take the bus to school, by year group	Year 7	0900
	Year 8	0930
	Year 9	1000
	Year 10	1030
	Year 11	1100

Please note that LFD tests are voluntary and will require your consent. Below is a link which you can use to provide/deny consent. With the very short turnaround to have this testing programme up and running, I would appreciate if you could send this back as soon as you are able, if you have not already done so. [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bwmcfx50QkyVKi6ApblT\\_Q5Rctbf-D9NmRWwSfV3aPhUNFFUNK1ZWkpIWTdXTEpOQ1Y4NjNMSEpCNy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bwmcfx50QkyVKi6ApblT_Q5Rctbf-D9NmRWwSfV3aPhUNFFUNK1ZWkpIWTdXTEpOQ1Y4NjNMSEpCNy4u)

Finally, please also know that we are following the situation around the Omicron variant and restrictions very closely. Whilst we outline a plan for our January return above, we know there is a chance this may change and ask you to be patient and understanding as we react to any changes in directives from the government. We are desperately hopeful that no new restrictions are imposed, but know from experience that the situation moves quickly and that nothing should be ruled out. We are currently busily writing contingency plans for remote teaching and / or partial closures purely as a precaution. Hopefully we never have need for those plans.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Brand**

Headteacher

RIB/TW – return to school-jan22-171221

