

14th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you regarding the most recent COVID-19 guidance for educational settings. There are a number of changes in response to the Omicron variant, and these have implications for students, parents and staff.

Close contact procedures

From Tuesday 14th December onwards if your child is identified as a close contact (you will be informed of this by NHS Test and Trace), they should take a lateral flow test each day for 7 days and report the result of each test through both the NHS online reporting system and the link on the school website: <http://www.oldfieldschool.com/>

- If they test negative then they can attend school as normal.
- If they test positive then they should self-isolate and book a PCR test, if this is positive they should self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily lateral flow tests.

Students who struggle to or are unable to self-swab for 7 days, will be supported in doing so in school. If this is the case for your child then you should contact the school and we will make arrangements for assisted swabbing in school on a daily basis.

The school will continue to provide home testing kits for all students and will supply additional kits for students who are required to carry out daily testing to attend school on demand.

Lateral Flow Tests

We had been hoping to send these home with your children before the end of the week but we may not receive our delivery in time. If you need more tests to get you through the holiday season, the school will be open on Monday 20th December between 9am and 11.30am for you to collect test kits.

COVID-19 risk assessment

This has been updated in line with the latest DfE guidance. Changes include amended arrangements for lateral flow tests, the continued use of face coverings in lessons and the use of CO2 monitors in classrooms. Please take the time to re-read this document. It is available in the COVID-19 area of the school's website <http://www.oldfieldschool.com/parent-area/covid-19/corona-virus-resources/>

We are also asking that all visitors to the school take a lateral flow test before attending meetings or school events. This includes the Christmas Concert this week; therefore, if you are planning on attending this event please ensure that you have taken a test before doing so.

Return to School in January

We are required to arrange on-site lateral flow testing for Year 7 to 11 students before they return to school in January. This will take place on Wednesday 5th January for those year groups; you will be informed of the arrangements shortly. Years 12 and 13 are not required to be tested on-site and must take a lateral flow test at home instead. We would ask that the result from this test is reported to the school. Following this test the twice weekly testing at home (on Wednesdays and Sunday) should resume. All students will return to school on Thursday 6th January.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation with ensuring that we keep the school community safe at this time.

Your faithfully



Steven Mackay