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Tuesday 11 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write further to my [letter of 4 January](#) last week, to ensure that you are fully aware of the further changes to coronavirus isolation requirements made in the last week by HM Government, and to update you on the vaccination programme for 12- to 15-year olds. For your convenience, I provide an updated summary of the key actions we are taking to mitigate against coronavirus transmission on the final page of this letter.

Updated isolation rules and guidance

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) [confirmed last week](#) that from today, 11 January, people who test positive with a lateral flow (LFD) test are no longer required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This means that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result should self-isolate immediately, without the need to have a PCR test to confirm the result. This is a temporary measure introduced by HM Government while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK.

Anyone who has symptoms should continue to self-isolate straight away and arrange to take a [PCR test](#) as soon as possible.

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, whether via LFD or PCR test, can now stop self-isolating after 7 days if they do not have a high temperature and if they take a rapid LFD test on days 6 and 7 of their 10-day self-isolation period, at least 24 hours apart, with both tests being negative.

Students who are contacts of a person who has tested positive, are not legally required to self-isolate (unless they have symptoms) and are [strongly advised](#) to take a rapid LFD test every day for 7 days, or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. The student should of course self-isolate if any of these test results are positive.

Vaccinations for 12- to 15-year-olds

Young people aged 12 to 15 in England are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Parents and carers can book vaccinations for their child through the [NHS booking system](#). The school age immunisation service (SAIS) have also informed us that they will be arranging a date between February and April to provide first and/or second dose vaccinations in College for eligible students, i.e., those aged 12 to 15 for whom they have positive consent. We will of course keep you fully informed as and when we receive confirmation of this date.

Continued overleaf...

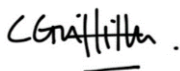
In the meantime, you can still book an appointment for either the first or second dose of the vaccine through the [national booking service](#) or by calling 119. Please note, however, that such an appointment needs to be 12 weeks after the first vaccine or 12 weeks after a positive COVID-19 test. We have also been informed by the SAIS that several local vaccine centres are now offering vaccines for this age group, and Greendale in Exeter is offering walk-in centres in the evenings and at weekends. The SAIS have assured us that local vaccine centres will adapt their clinics to meet the needs of the population, so if you cannot initially book an appointment in your local centre please do keep trying as more will become released.

Further source information

- Current guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) regarding what parents and carers need to know about schools can be [viewed here](#).
- Current HM Government guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread of coronavirus can be [viewed here](#).
- Current guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus infection who do not live with the person can be [viewed here](#).
- Current stay at home guidance from the UKHSA for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection can be [viewed here](#).
- HM Government's COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021 (including Plan B) can be [viewed here](#).
- Our Coronavirus Response Risk Assessment can be [viewed here](#).
- Our COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan can be [viewed here](#).
- The archive of all the letters we have sent to families can be [accessed here](#).

Thank you for your continued support. Should you require any further information or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,



Craig Griffiths
(Associate Principal).

Key summary actions to mitigate against coronavirus transmission

11 January 2022 update

Summary of current College-specific measures

- Students and staff wear face coverings in communal areas, and classrooms, unless exempt.
- Students must adhere to the one-way system of movement within corridors.
- Separate venues for each key stage for break and lunch times, and staggered entry by year group.
- If travel to college is by coach or taxi, students should clean hands before boarding, wear face coverings, and should sit next to other students in their year, or siblings.
- Students and staff must wash their hands regularly (with hand sanitizer provided), when entering college, when entering a classroom, and before entering eating areas.
- Indoor occupied spaces will be kept well ventilated, with CO₂ monitors installed in classrooms to identify if ventilation needs to be improved. Students will be allowed to wear coats (not hoodies) indoors for comfort on colder days.
- Meetings will be undertaken remotely or in well-ventilated spaces with assured social distancing.
- Any visitor who does not normally work at the College will be asked to take an LFD test before visiting the College, and to prove they have done so within a 24-hour period and received a negative result. Entry to the College will not be permitted if this condition is not met.
- Educational visits will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with any event that is given the go-ahead requiring participants to take an LFD test the day before.

Summary of Testing and Isolation requirements

- All students and staff take LFD tests at home twice a week, 3-4 days apart (please report results to the NHS via [this form](#), and to us via [this form](#).)
- Any member of staff or student who has symptoms should self-isolate straight away and arrange to take a [PCR test](#) as soon as possible.
- If any test, LFD or PCR, returns a positive result:
 - ⇒ Parents/carers should please [complete this form](#) to help us identify any person with whom their child may have mixed closely. We will then contact (by email) the families of any student identified through this form as a possible contact and advise them to take daily LFD tests.
 - ⇒ The student should isolate immediately for 10 days (day 1 is the day after the positive LFD test, or the day after symptoms started). Self-isolation can end after 7 days, if 2 LFD tests taken 24 hours apart on day 6 and 7 both return negative results, and if the student has no symptoms.
- Any student or fully-vaccinated (2 doses) member of staff in the school who believe that they may be — or have been advised that they are — a contact of someone who has tested positive, should continue to attend College (unless symptomatic) and take a rapid LFD test daily for 7 days. This daily test should be taken before leaving the household for the first time that day.
- Any member of staff who is not fully vaccinated must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of their last contact with the person who has a positive test result for COVID-19.