



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 14th January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families and friends are keeping well during this time. Please find below some important updates about the work of the school.

Exams currently taking place

I have been extremely impressed with the attitude and conduct of students who have been taking exams so far this term. Please continue to encourage students to revise at home and to make the most of additional revision sessions provided by teachers. These exams contribute towards students' final grades, so it is essential that students are well-prepared and that they take them seriously.

Face-masks

Students and staff are required to wear face-masks in lessons as well as in corridors and other parts of the building, unless they are exempt for specific reasons. Please remind your child to bring a mask to school. If they are exempt, please ensure your child has a badge, card or lanyard to show this.

Changes to minimum isolation period for confirmed cases

As you may be aware, the government have reduced the minimum isolation period from seven days to five days. The guidance we have been given by the Department for Education is as follows:

From Monday 17 January, people self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if an isolating person tests negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.



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Lateral flow testing

Please ensure you are continuing to test twice weekly at home. Any students who are a close contact of a confirmed case, or anyone with a confirmed case within the household, are encouraged to test every day for 7 days while continuing to attend school as normal. Students and staff should report results immediately online: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

Changes to requirements for confirmatory PCR tests

As you will be aware, the government have temporarily removed the requirement for a confirmatory PCR test following a positive lateral flow test result. Anyone who receives a positive lateral flow test should assume they are infectious and isolate in line with government guidance. They can then return to school or work once they have two negative test results 24 hours apart after day 6.

Open Evening – Thursday 20th January

Our second Open Evening of the year will take place on Thursday 20th January at 4.30pm online. Please encourage current Year 11 students to attend and please share the date with any friends or family who you know are interested in joining the school next year. The link to the online Open Evening can be found on the Mulberry UTC website.

Thank you for all your ongoing support for the school.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

Principal