

Our Ref: DSH/MGR

16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **January Return Plan 2022**

As we are approaching the end of yet another challenging year, I am writing to thank you, once again, for your continued support and inform you about the plans for the return in January.

First of all, students will return in January on a phased return with onsite testing provided in the sports hall for those students who have given consent. Approximately one third of all cases of COVID-19 occur without symptoms and young people are more likely to experience no symptoms than those who are older. Any student not requiring a test will remain in lessons.

**Live lessons will be provided for all students until all testing has been completed.**  
**Our staggered return is as follows:**

Tuesday 4th January 2022 – Y11 and Y8 students only (Online Learning for Years 7, 9 and 10)  
Wednesday 5th January 2022 – Y7, Y8, Y10 and Y11 students only (Online Learning for Year 9)  
Thursday 6th January 2022 – All year groups return to the Academy

Please note that students should continue to take the lateral flow tests twice weekly for the foreseeable future, reporting the results to the academy. Please follow this link

<https://forms.gle/LvRkhSKce1u27R1J7>

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 - Update from the Department of Education

**From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.**

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education. Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must 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 tests (which have already been provided), and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you, your extended families and people of this community a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D Sheehan".

Danielle Sheehan  
**Associate Principal**