

3 January 2022

Dear parent/carer

This letter is a reminder about the start of term details, which see an staggered return.

Updated guidance on face coverings

The Government guidance has been updated and it is recommended that on return to school this week, *face coverings are worn in classrooms where students in year 7 and above are educated*. This builds on the existing guidance that recommends face coverings in communal areas of the school.

Students must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport.

COVID-19 Asymptomatic on-site testing in January

As we shared with you before the festive break, the Government would like all secondary schools to prepare to test students once on-site on return in January. Testing continues to play a vital role in keeping COVID-19 out of schools, especially after a period of social mixing over the school holidays.

Once students have tested on site, they then need to test 3-5 days later at home. They then need to get back into the routine of Sunday evening/Monday morning and Wednesday evening/Thursday morning testing at home.

On-site testing will be taking place for all Year 12, 13 and 14 students on **Tuesday, 4 January**. Students need to come in for their test and then leave the site. Teaching for all VI Form year groups will start the following day, on Wednesday 5 January. Home learning via Google Classroom will be provided for students on Tuesday, 4 January when there is not on site teaching taking place.

If you previously gave consent in September 2021 for your child to be tested, or they consented to testing themselves due to their age, then you/they do not need to give consent again, we will be working on the basis that all consents still stand.

If your child has not previously been tested and you would like them to be (and they are under 18) please complete the form below. Students over 18 can give their own consent.

<https://forms.gle/g9i7MVdU87DXXJWn7>

We will not test students under 18 who do not have consent to be tested, and students only need to attend VI Form on Tuesday 4 January, if they are being tested.

The guidance has also been updated in relation to those who have tested positive in the last 90 days and now states that *even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site through ATS or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection*.

An Isle of Wight Education Federation establishment, providing a joint VI Form provision for Carisbrooke College and Medina College

If your child is unable to attend this session, please ask them to test at home before returning to school on the allocated day and report the result to the Government and to us via the link on the website.

Home learning via Google Classroom will be provided for students on the days that there is not on site teaching taking place. Lessons will be delivered following the student's normal timetable. **w/c 3 January 2022 is Week 2.**

The Government guidance about self-isolation has been updated over the break.

For information the current full guidance that we work to is here: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

There are a few main messages though:

If your child lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they are not legally required to self-isolate (if under 18 years and 6 months). However, if aged 5 years and older, they are strongly advised to

- take an LFD test every day for 7 days, or until 10 days after the household member who has COVID-19 started their self-isolation period if this is earlier.
- take this daily LFD test before they leave home for the first time that day

However, **If they develop [symptoms](#) at any time, even if these are mild**, they must stay at home and self-isolate immediately, [arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test](#) and follow the [guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms](#).

If they do not have symptoms but test positive on LFD, they should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. They should [arrange to have a PCR test](#) as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, they must continue to self-isolate.

There is updated guidance for adults and those aged over 18 years, 6 months in relation to vaccination status and isolation advice.

[Links to guidance](#)

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Return to on site lessons and the term ahead.

Please ensure that your child returns to on-site teaching from Wednesday, 5 January. We expect all students to return on time and with an attitude ready to learn.

As always, hand and respiratory hygiene remain key, as is regular twice weekly LFD testing at home. We will update you with any new Government guidance when we receive it.

Thank you for your support.



Dave Mumford
Federation Deputy Headteacher/Head of School