

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope you all had a lovely break and wish you well for the coming year.

As I write, I am aware that guidance from the Government is ever evolving. As a school we will share information as and when it becomes available.

### Testing

Testing times are the following:

Wednesday 5th January  
Years 12 and 13 during AM registration  
Year 11 during period 1  
Year 9 during period 1 and 2

Thursday 6th January  
Year 10 during AM registration and period 1  
Year 8 during period 1 and 2  
Year 7 during period 2

We strongly recommend that students also test prior to their return to school.

The Government has announced that they would also like us to test students who have tested positive in the last 90 days.

### Covid Measures

As you will have seen in the media face masks are now to be worn in classrooms in addition to communal areas.

We will be asking all students to wear masks or show an exemption pass.

If your child is exempt and requires a pass, please let Mr Brennan or Miss Gilligan know.

Ventilation is key to preventing the spread, so all staff have been asked to open windows/doors. Students will be allowed to wear outdoor coats (NOT HOODIES).

All classrooms will have hand sanitiser in them, and this will also be available in communal areas.

The school has a small supply of CO2 monitors which we are using to monitor the ventilation in rooms.

### Isolation Periods

Covid isolation periods can be reduced from 10 days to 7 days if a student tests negative on a lateral flow test on Day 6 and Day 7. If a line appears (even if it is faint) the student must isolate for the 10 days.

### Daily Testing for Close Contacts of Covid 19

If your son/daughter is identified as a close contact of someone who has Covid they should take a lateral flow test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal unless they develop symptoms or test positive.

### Vaccinations

Public Health teams are offering second vaccinations and catch-up vaccinations to students in school settings. We have yet to be informed of a date for this, when we do receive any communication we will be in touch.

### Staff Absence

At present we have 6 members of staff absence with Covid. If staffing levels are impacted due to Covid and other absences we will always try to find supply teachers, however, we may need to send year groups home if we are unable to staff the school at a level which keeps everyone safe.

We will ensure remote learning is in place. If we have to ask year groups to stay at home.

I appreciate this is disruptive but will only be a last resort. Thank you for your cooperation in advance.

### Test Kits

We have a supply of lateral flow test kits in school and will be giving these to students over the next few days. However, if you do require one urgently please come into reception and collect one.

### Public Examinations

All public examinations scheduled for January and February are to go ahead as planned in accordance with current guidance.

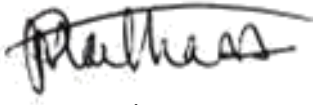
### Plea for Teachers

We have seen a shortage in supply teachers recently. If you know of any teachers who are currently retired or not employed who may be interested in working for the school as supply teachers, please can you ask them to email Michelle Saint via [michelle.saint@ewsacademy.org.uk](mailto:michelle.saint@ewsacademy.org.uk)

And finally,

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation in what can only be described as trying times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matharu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs S Matharu  
Headteacher