



Dear parents and carers

The government have asked that schools carry out lateral flow tests with students onsite when they return after Christmas. To facilitate this, we are staggering the days students return to site in January. Students will be in school for the usual school day times and go to classes as usual and be tested during the day. Lessons will be online on the other days. There is a lot of information contained in this letter but we wanted to share plans you as soon as possible.

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## Timetable for Testing

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January is a bank holiday  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January is a staff training day and school is closed to students  
Years 7 and 8 will return from Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Years 9, 10, 11 online learning  
Years 9 and 11 will return from Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Year 10 online learning  
Year 10 will return from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January – everyone on site

**We ask that you encourage your children to continue with LFT testing over the holiday period and especially on the day before their return to school. Students should carry out a saliva test on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January.**

A testing log is now available in Class Charts where we ask parents to record LFT and/or PCR test results during the break. This will give us a picture of the levels of absence we may reasonably anticipate at the start of term. Absences should still be reported in the usual way, from Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

To help facilitate the testing process, **we are looking for volunteers**. If you can offer any time on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> or Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Clive Surry – [surry@perins.hants.sch.uk](mailto:surry@perins.hants.sch.uk)

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## Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all staff and students as they return to school. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in schools through asymptomatic transmission. We therefore strongly encourage those returning to school to be tested. Consents previously collected (or declined) will carry over from previous onsite testing. Parents of students who have joined the school recently will receive a consent form.

## How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

## Learning

For students in Years 9 and 11 on Wednesday, and those in Year 10 on Wednesday and Thursday, teachers will deliver lessons through Microsoft Teams in the same way as during the last significant school closure earlier this year. The only exceptions to this should be core PE and Silent Reading, given the requirements of the subjects.

**All students in Years 9, 10 and 11 are expected to attend Tutor Time online from 8:40-9:05am on Wednesday 5th January. This will give everyone the opportunity to catch up after the Christmas holiday and tutors can also check that students are ready for online learning and answer any immediate issues they may have.**

Mr Papanicolaou, Assistant Headteacher, will communicate plans for learning to students, parents and carers before online delivery commences. He will send a summary document, along with some screencasts showing everyone how to access their online lessons and so forth, on Tuesday 4th January.

Students will need to be online to attend Microsoft Teams lessons, so please do let IT Support know if there are any issues with school laptops this by contacting [ithelpdesk@perins.hants.sch.uk](mailto:ithelpdesk@perins.hants.sch.uk). They are available from Tuesday 4th.

Supporting information on testing from the DfE and NHS is available:

[DfE Frequently asked questions](#)

[Data Protection Frequently Asked Question for parents – COVID testing in Schools and Colleges.](#)

[Contact Tracing for children and young people from 19th July onwards](#)

## Why Test?

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Testing has been playing a vital role in the response to COVID-19. It is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. This means those who test positive can self-isolate, keeping other pupils and students in face-to-face education. Reporting all test results, positive or negative, helps the health experts have a clearer picture of any potential outbreaks in different parts of the country. That is why we would like all students to take part in the testing.

### What will happen if a student tests positive?

Those who test positive should isolate and take a confirmatory PCR test and continue to isolate if the result is positive. We are well prepared to implement high quality blended learning arrangements so that any child who is well enough to learn from home can do so.

If you are a close contact of a positive case, you do not need to isolate if:

- You're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a Covid-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- You're under 18 years, 6 months old
- You're taking part or have taken part in a Covid-19 vaccine trial
- You're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- **All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will continue to be required to self-isolate and asked to book a PCR test.**

The Government plans to introduce Daily Contact Testing as soon as possible as an alternative to self-isolation for contacts of positive Omicron cases who are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months.

But you are strongly advised to take a PCR test and then if positive, will need to isolate.

We will support our staff and Students throughout. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Jones  
Head Teacher

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