

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022



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Dear Parent/Carer

### **Returning to school and COVID updates**

I hope that you have had an enjoyable and safe holiday and a happy new year. As we prepare for students to return to school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, I want to update you on the current mitigations and isolation information regarding COVID-19 before our return.

Following communications already sent out all parents/carers before the Christmas break, we will be carrying out Asymptomatic Testing as set out in Government guidance, for all students prior to their return to school. To minimise disruption to teaching this will be on Weds 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 for all consenting and eligible students. **All students will begin the start of the new school term on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

**Students should all undertake a second test at home within 3-4 days of the test taken on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and the results recorded on the school website link.**

### **Changes to guidance on testing within 90 days of having a positive test**

The DFE has issued a recommendation that students (and staff) in school should still undertake a test even if they have tested in last 90 days. If your child is in this category, they will not have been registered for a test in school so should undertake a Lateral flow test at home on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, prior to their return on the 6<sup>th</sup>. They should then continue the twice weekly testing regime after a second test at the weekend.

*“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.”*

### **Information on the changes to the self-isolation period**

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days if the conditions below are met.

Individuals should now take lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8. Further information on self-isolation can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

### **Daily testing for close contacts**

Students identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take a lateral flow test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. This guidance also applies to adults who are fully vaccinated.

### **Face coverings**

As I am sure that you are aware the government is temporarily recommending that face coverings are worn in classrooms and teaching spaces for students in year 7 or above, in light of the Omicron variant surge. This builds on the existing guidance that recommends face coverings in all communal areas. This guidance will be in place at Kineton High School until Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, when 'Plan B' regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

As a result, we expect students to wear face coverings in lessons from Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January unless they have a medical exemption. We ask that you ensure that your child has a clean face covering ready for their first day of school next week and that you discuss this expectation with them in advance. Students will be informed in a virtual assembly on Thursday.

It is also expected that face masks will be worn on school transport. Please reiterate this to your child/children as this message will also be shared at school.

### **Students Currently Isolating**

If your child is currently isolating due to testing positive for COVID-19 I hope that they are safe and well. If their isolation period will mean that they are not able to return to school on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January please contact the school via the normal attendance procedures to inform us, if you are able contact us as soon as possible, this will help us inform staff that work required to be set via Teams.

I would like to reiterate that at Kineton High School we continue to prioritise the safety of our students, whilst ensuring that we deliver an excellent level of education within the current circumstances. We will regularly review our strategies in light of changing Governmental guidance and advice and inform you of these changes when they occur. We look forward to welcoming students back on Thursday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Bridge', with a horizontal line extending to the left.

Helen Bridge  
Headteacher