

December 2021

Return to school in January

Dear Parents and carers

Thank you for all your support during the challenges that COVID19 continues to present for us. Attached is a letter from East Sussex regarding the current situation.

There are some key changes we have had to make in response to the government guidance and in accordance with our risk assessment; so that we can keep everyone in our community safe. You may be aware that the government has recommended that all secondary school students should receive two lateral flow tests in school upon their return in January 2022.

Your child must have completed one lateral flow device test before they attend school. Your child will complete the test themselves but will be supported by staff to do this. You must either give consent for this test using the link, if you do not give consent then we will be unable to give your child the test:

<https://www.thestleonardsacademy.org.uk/school-life/covid-19-testing-consent>

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the plan for administering lateral flow device tests to students upon their return to school.

Return to school dates and lateral flow testing

To administer the lateral flow tests, we have developed a test centre by the main entrance to school in the drama studio. This will be signposted from the main entrance to school. Please see below for the details of the phased return to school.

To allow us to manage the large numbers of students through the test centre, your child must attend their first test within the following timeslots and when they are not due to attend school on that day, they will be required to return home after completing their test at the centre. Please ensure that you are comfortable with how your child will travel to and from the Academy; as they will be required to leave site immediately after their test if they are not due to be in school that day. Please do not drive or accompany your student onto the Academy site. If you would like to wait for them then please arrange to meet them away from the school premises. For safeguarding purposes we cannot have parents on site waiting with students.

After your child has completed their first test, they will return home with a card for you to register your child's details and receive their results. If your child's result is positive, we will contact you immediately. We will not contact you if your child's result is negative

If students arrive on site to have a test and we do not have consent given via the link above then we are not permitted to allow them to test.

A link at the end of this letter will help you and your child to understand how a lateral flow device test works.

Date	Year group to be tested via test centre	Timeslot by surname	Year groups to attend school
Tuesday 4 th January	Year 7 Year 11	A-M – 10.00am to 11.00am N-Z – 11.00am to 12.0pm A-M – 12.30pm to 1.30pm N-Z – 1.30pm to 2.30pm	None
Wednesday 5 th January	Yr 8 Yr 9	A-M - 9.00am to 10.00am N-Z – 10.00am to 11.00am A-M – 11.30am to 12.30pm N-Z – 12.30pm – 1.30pm	Year 7 and 11
Thursday 6 th January	Yr 10	A-M - 9.00am to 10.00am N-Z – 10.00am to 11.00am	Year 7, 8, 9 and 11
Friday 7 th January	Year 7 and Year 11	Normal School Times	All Students
Monday 10 th January	Year 8 and Year 9	Normal School Times	All Students
Tuesday 11 th January	Year 10	Normal School Times	All Students

**Please note that the normal school times are from 8.50am. Doors open at 8.40am

Attendance to school

The Government have been clear about the importance of children resuming their education and therefore all students are expected to return to school after receiving their first negative lateral flow device test. If your child does develop symptoms of covid19, they are required to remain at home and complete a PCR test. From August 16th2021, children under the age of 18 and those who have received a double vaccine will not be required to isolate if they are deemed as being a 'close contact' with a person who has tested positive with covid-19. We will not be authorising any periods of isolation unless your child themselves are symptomatic or test positive for covid-19.



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I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas break and a prosperous new year. I and all of the staff at the Academy look forward to greeting your children back to school from the 4th of January 2022.

Thank you for your continued support



Jon Francies
Principal

Links:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/08/lateral-flow-testing-new-rapid-tests-to-detect-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-to-be-eased-for-fully-vaccinated-adults-in-step-4>



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