

Dear all

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope that you have enjoyed a restful break with your families. As you will be aware through announcements in the news over the last couple of days there are a couple of essential announcements which have been made and I would like to clarify.

Arrangements for the start of term that have not changed – Testing will be carried out as the schedule previously shared both today and tomorrow ready for a full reopening on Thursday.

As you are aware the DfE has asked that secondary school pupils undertake one on-site test, on return in January. This will help boost testing participation and reduce transmission after a period of social mixing during the holidays.

Students should then continue testing twice weekly at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) and to the academy via the website. Should further test kits be required please ask a member of the pastoral team on your return to the academy.

The DfE has confirmed that even if a person 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.

If a positive result is received please email positivecovidtest@nunthorpe.co.uk as this will generate an automatic email response requesting information that we need to be able to report to the DfE to monitor cases within the academy.

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 in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD 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. This also applies to children under five, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and the person does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to the academy from day 8.

Face coverings in secondary classrooms

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 is a step up from only wearing them in communal areas prior to the Christmas break. The advice is short term only to support students and staff as they return to schools this term and builds on the existing guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings.

The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until the 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed. It is therefore essential that students arrive at the academy with their own face masks on a daily basis and a spare if possible to support the prevention of transmission.

Good hygiene

Students are still encouraged to use the previous methods to reduce transmission which include good hand hygiene, hand washing, use of sanitizer before entering any classroom or teaching space, 'catch it, bin it' when sneezing or coughing.

Events

All calendared events are anticipated to continue at the present time, where we are required to move to remote provision for these you will be notified at the earliest opportunity.

Updates

We will continue to monitor information shared on a daily basis and update you through our usual methods as required. Please ensure you access the website frequently and add our facebook and twitter feeds to your favourites, all announcements will also be shared via Class Charts so ensure you have downloaded the app.