



14 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Update on Start of term and COVID-19 procedures**

I am writing to provide you with an update on our arrangements for the start of the spring term in response to the announcements made by the Prime Minister and recent guidance given to schools and academies on mass testing at the start of term.

**Start of term and mass testing**

The school will reopen after the Christmas break on Tuesday 4 January 2022 on the following basis:

Day and date	Year group to be tested	Year group to be tested	Year group to be tested
	Early morning session	Mid-morning session	Afternoon session
Monday 3 January 2022	<b>School closed</b>		
Tuesday 4 January 2022	Year 7 return 8.50am	Year 11 return 10.30am	Year 9 return 12 noon
Wednesday 5 January 2022	Year 8 return 8.50am	Year 10 return 10.30am	
	Years 12 and 13 return as usual		
Thursday 5 January 2022	All pupils/students in lessons as usual Testing by small groups not tested in the schedule above		

We are currently in the process of reinstating our Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) to be able to complete Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests with those pupils for whom we have consent.

**Years 12 and 13 students** who attend our Denys Salt Sixth Form Centre are not to return until Wednesday 5 January 2022. The national guidance for Sixth Form students is to complete an LFD test at home, either the night before, or the morning of the day they return to school. Tuesday 4 January 2022 will be a revision and study day for students; the Denys Salt Sixth Form Team will provide more information for students.

**Tuesday 4 January 2022**

**Year 7 are to be in school as usual** and are to go straight to their Form class for registration at 8.50am. Those children for whom we have consent, will be escorted from their Form class to the ATS, where they will either administer themselves or have a trained Test Assistant administer a Lateral Flow Device Test. Pupils will remain with their Form class until all tests are complete and results known. There will be a range of activities taking place within Form rooms during this time covering aspects such as Self-review and Getting it Right as well as self-organisation. Our aim is for Year 7 pupils to return to lessons for period 3. However, there is likely to be a change to period 2 regarding break time depending on how quickly the LFD tests can be administered and results returned. Also, as we are testing other year groups the usual teachers of some classes may not be taking the lesson if they are a Form Tutor of Year 11 or Year 9.



**Year 11 are to attend from 10.30am** and are to go straight to their Form class for registration. Those children for whom we have consent, will be escorted from their Form class to the ATS, where they will either administer themselves or have a trained Test Assistant administer a Lateral Flow Device Test. Pupils will remain with their Form class until all tests are complete and results known. There will be a range of activities taking place within Form rooms during this time covering aspects such as Self-review and Getting it Right as well as self-organisation. Our aim is for Year 11 pupils to return to lessons for period 4. As we are testing other year groups the usual teachers of some classes may not be taking the lesson if they are a Form Tutor of Year 9.

**Year 9 are to attend from 12 noon** and are to go straight to their Form class for registration. Those children for whom we have consent, will be escorted from their Form class to the ATS, where they will either administer themselves or have a trained Test Assistant administer a Lateral Flow Device Test. Pupils will remain with their Form class until all tests are complete and results known. There will be a range of activities taking place within Form rooms during this time covering aspects such as Self-review and Getting it Right as well as self-organisation. Our aim is for Year 9 pupils to return to lessons for period 5.

### **Wednesday 5 January 2022**

**Pupils in Years 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13 are to attend school as usual. However, the lessons for Years 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13 may be affected on Wednesday 5 January 2022 if their usual class teacher is a Form Tutor of Year 8 or 10**

**Year 8 are to be in school as usual** and are to go straight to their Form class for registration at 8.50am. Those children for whom we have consent, will be escorted from their Form class to the ATS, where they will either administer themselves or have a trained Test Assistant administer a Lateral Flow Device Test. Pupils will remain with their Form class until all tests are complete and results known. There will be a range of activities taking place within Form rooms during this time covering aspects such as Self-review and Getting it Right as well as self-organisation. Our aim is for Year 8 pupils to return to lessons for period 3. However, there is likely to be a change to period 2 regarding break time depending on how quickly the LFD tests can be administered and results returned. Also, as we are testing other year groups the usual teachers of some classes may not be taking the lesson if they are a Form Tutor of Year 10.

**Year 10 are to attend from 10.30am** and are to go straight to their Form class for registration. Those children for whom we have consent, will be escorted from their Form class to the ATS, where they will either administer themselves or have a trained Test Assistant administer a Lateral Flow Device Test. Pupils will remain with their Form class until all tests are complete and results known. There will be a range of activities taking place within Form rooms during this time covering aspects such as Self-review and Getting it Right as well as self-organisation. Our aim is for Year 10 pupils to return to lessons for period 4.

### **COVID-19 updates**

The Department for Education (DfE) and Gov.uk have published revised guidance regarding daily testing and response to contacts of COVID-19:

#### **“Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19**

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the

education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

All staff and secondary aged pupils and students should have access to a box of 7 LFD tests from their education setting. If your setting requires additional test kits sooner than they would be available through the standard ordering process, or will run out of test kits imminently, you can contact 119 to request an emergency replenishment. For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

For students with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, settings should work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing. Information on further support measures will be provided.

Finally, it is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all education and childcare workforce and all students of secondary age and above."

#### **"Face coverings**

Face coverings should be worn by pupils and students in year 7 and above (which would be children who were aged 11 on 31 August 2021), staff and visitors in communal areas, unless exempt. This is a temporary measure. Pupils and students in year 7 and above in these settings must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school, college, or higher education provider."

#### **Assemblies and Year 9 Options Evening**

Due to the potential for the spread of COVID-19 we are once again suspending assemblies as large gatherings from the start of the spring term, but they will continue online. Also, we are moving our Year 9 Options Evening to online presentations; apologies for any inconvenience but the application process will continue as usual with all information updated on our website. We will continue to review all other events planned for next term and will notify you and our children of any changes.

As always, I wish to end by thanking you for your continued support and to say that I am proud of our children and all that they get involved in, give their support for, and achieve.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel

Headteacher