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7th January 2022

Dear Parent,

In line with the latest government guidance around Covid-19 I am writing to you to explain how this will affect your child on their return to school in January.

Remote learning

We will continue to provide a blended learning experience to those that have to self-isolate because they have tested Positive (as long as they are well enough) for Covid-19. This is a combination of pupils connecting to the live lesson taking place, where practical and allowing for time differences, and accessing resources through our virtual learning environment Frog, along with email exchange with their teacher.

International Pupils

We will continue provide a blended learning experience to those who are abroad and face challenges returning to Ellesmere due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.

Covid-19 and isolation

If you are fully vaccinated, or below 18 years 6 months, and you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (or are identified as being a close contact by NHS Track and Trace) you are not legally required to self-isolate and should attend school. However, you should take an LFD test every day for 7 days, and to self-isolate if any of these test results is positive.

If you have COVID-19 [symptoms](#) you should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. You should [arrange to have a PCR test](#) as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, you must continue to self-isolate.

If you do not have COVID-19 symptoms, but you have a positive PCR or LFD test result, you must stay at home and self-isolate. You can return to your normal routine and stop self-isolating after 10 full days if your symptoms have gone.

You may be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. You can take an LFD test from 6 days after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. 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.

To further reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 on to others, if you end your self-isolation period before 10 full days you should:



- limit close contact with other people outside your household
- maintain 2m social distancing (if not possible, limit the time)
- wear a face covering when in school (indoors) at all times
- exercise enhanced hand hygiene

You should follow this advice until 10 full days from when your self-isolation period started.

If you are isolating because of a positive test result but did not have any symptoms, and you develop COVID-19 symptoms within your isolation period, start a new isolation period from the day your symptoms start.

For full details:

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

Face Coverings

In line with government guidance, pupils in year 7 or above (and adults) will be required to wear a face covering when on College transport and moving around the school indoors, e.g. corridors or communal areas. Pupils will also need to wear them in classrooms although this will be reviewed by the government at the end of January. As such they should come to school with a face covering and a suitable plastic bag to store it in when it is not in use. Face coverings should not be extreme in style or offensive.

Coming to School – Pupils and Parents

In advance of returning to school, please could pupils LFD test the day before they travel to school; if test kits are available.

When pupils arrive in school on Monday, 10th January, they should go straight to their tutor rooms and not mix with other pupils at this stage. Boarders should go to House and report to their Housemaster/Mistress or Housemother on arrival and not go straight to their room.

If possible, parents should not come into House. If you wish to speak with a member of staff please arrange this in advance. If, as a parent you do need to come into school, at any time, please could you take an LFD test in advance. If you do not have an LFD test kit then we can provide one.

Asymptomatic Testing

In line with government guidance, all secondary school pupils (Year 7 – Year 13) will receive an on-site lateral flow device test, on their return, providing consent has been given. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home, with LFD test kits 3-4 days apart. Results should be given to tutors, normally on Mondays and Thursdays. School will provide the LFD kits for all pupils.



Hygiene

Pupils are to wash their hands regularly; from when they arrive in school, return from breaks, change classrooms, before eating and when changing their face covering. Hand sanitisers will be used where hand washing is not practicable, for instance before and after using key pads to go into Houses.

School Transport

Buses will run as normal from Monday 10th January 2022. The wearing of a face covering and adhering to seating places remain the same as last term. Please can you remind pupils (Year 7 and above) that it is a requirement for them to wear face coverings on transport and they should not remove them during the journey.

Parents Driving to School

To help with the flow of traffic and also help reduce congestion/time on site, we are keeping the different drop-off/pickup points and a one-way system between 8.20am–8.40am and 5.15pm–5.40pm during the school week.

Years 3 to 6: Enter school through the gate near Lower School and drop off/pickup in the Lower School bus park and then exit through the same gate.

Years 7 and 8: Enter school through the gate near Lower School and drop off/pickup in the Tennis Centre car park and then exit through the same gate.

Years 9 to 13: Enter school through the gate near Lower School and drop off/pickup near St Hilda's and in the main quad. You should leave by turning left out of the main quad to exit down at the main gate of the school, (passing the swimming pool). Please **do not** park on the road by the pool. If you are waiting for a swimmer please park on Parry's.

This one-way system and new drop off/pickup system are only for the start and end of the school day, 8.20am - 8.40am and 5.15pm - 5.40pm. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Kind regards,

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A Woodard School

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