

Coronavirus Update as at January 3rd 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope that you and your children are well and have enjoyed the holiday period. Further to the video message we sent out on December 30th (still available online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6mGfyeASgU&t=6s>), I am writing with a further update following the latest government guidance issued on January 2nd.

You may have seen in the news that perhaps the most important change in the new guidance is the recommendation that **all students now wear face masks in classrooms as well as in communal areas of school**. This recommendation will remain in place until at least January 26th, when the government are next reviewing the measures currently in place.

You may also have seen in the news that there have been some changes to the guidance around self-isolation since December 22nd. The key headline in this area is that the previous 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for Coronavirus has now been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances. Individuals may 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.

The full guidance around self-isolation if you require further detail is online 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?utm_source=2%20January%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Finally, a reminder that in order to minimise risk when students return to school, we will be reopening our on-site Coronavirus testing centre. In the week commencing Wednesday January 5th, all students will be offered a “lateral flow” test, this is to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus by identifying asymptomatic cases. Testing will be available between the hours of 10.00am and 1.00pm on the day of your child’s year group testing (a schedule of which is detailed below).

Day	Activity
Wednesday 5 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11 students come to school to be tested for Coronavirus only and return home once they have had test. Year 11 students do not attend work experience placements this week. • Year 9 and Year 10 students remain at home on this day.
Thursday 6 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11 students in school for full teaching. • Year 10 students come to school to be tested for Coronavirus only and return home once they have had

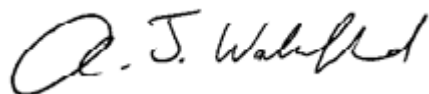
	<p>test. Year 10 students do not attend work experience placements this week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 9 students remain at home on this day.
Friday 7 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 and Year 11 students in school for full teaching. • Year 9 students come to school to be tested for Coronavirus only and return home once they have had test. • No enrichment sessions for this week only so school finishes at 12pm.
Monday 10 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students in school for full teaching. • All school activities running fully as normal for all year groups including work experience and enrichment sessions.

For your child to access Lateral Flow Testing in school, it is essential if you have not already done so that you return a completed consent form to us. This can be done quickly and easily using the online form at: <https://www.theedgeacademy.co.uk/covid-form/>. **Without the consent form, your child cannot receive a Lateral Flow Test in school.** Although the tests are voluntary, **we strongly encourage every single family who have not already done so to complete the consent form so that we can make the school the safest it can possibly be.**

If you require any more support or have any questions regarding Coronavirus testing, please contact our Medical Lead and Designated Senior Person Calum Hill at calum.hill@theedgeacademy.co.uk.

As usual, please also feel free to contact me directly at andrew.wakefield@theedgeacademy.co.uk if there are any further questions I can assist with in any way regarding this letter.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Wakefield

Principal