

ASHLYNS SCHOOL



Dear Parent/Carer

6 December 2021

Further to the information in last week's e-Bulletin, I would like to provide more information and guidance about the testing arrangements and the staggered start for different year groups on our January return.

To help manage the risk of community transmission of Covid-19, the Government has asked schools to implement further, additional measures. This includes on-site lateral flow tests in all secondary schools at the start of the spring term in January. As before, the testing programme is voluntary, but students are encouraged to take part.

To facilitate this new round of on-site testing, we are required to obtain fresh consent from all parents/carers. The consent form can be found [HERE](#). Please complete the form, providing consent or declining, by **9.00am on Friday 10 December**.

As before, those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a double nasal swab. We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause some anxiety for some children and their families, particularly for some of those with SEND. Please rest assured that our experienced staff will be on hand to support your child. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void.

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. If a test result is positive, parents will be informed and further instructions provided. The outcome of the test will also be reported to the online NHS system. If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace and take a confirmatory PCR test. If the result of the PCR test is negative they will be able to return to school.

We are aware that some students have previously tested positive for Covid and we are awaiting guidance on the timescales of testing following a positive case. To assist our planning, we would ask that you complete the consent form, advising if and when your child last tested positive, and we will adjust their involvement in the January testing once the guidance has been received.

To accommodate the onsite testing in January we will be operating a staggered start to the term. The specific timings for each year group can be found below. Please note that the 'return to school timings' apply to all students within year groups 7 to 11, irrespective of whether they are being tested or not. Once on-site, students in these year groups will remain in school. Year 12 and Year 13 are to study from home, and only attend school for their test, returning home once complete. Those Sixth Form students not participating in testing are to study at home for the day on Wednesday 5 January, returning to school on Thursday 6 January.

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Year or Form Group	Date	Arrival time / location
Year 7 - X Band 7B1, 7B3, 7C1, 7H1, 7R1	Wednesday 5 January	8.30am / Sports Hall
Year 7 - Y Band 7B2, 7C2, 7H2, 7R2	Wednesday 5 January	9.30am / Sports Hall
Year 8 - X Band 8B1, 8C1, 8H1, 8R1	Thursday 6 January	8.30am / Sports Hall
Year 8 - Y Band 8B2, 8C2, 8H2, 8R2	Thursday 6 January	9.30am / Sports Hall
Year 9 - X Band 9B1, 9C1, 9H1, 9R1	Thursday 6 January	10.30am / Sports Hall
Year 9 - Y Band 9B2, 9C2, 9H2, 9R2	Thursday 6 January	11.30am / Sports Hall
Year 10 - X Band 10B1, 10C1, 10H1, 10R1	Thursday 6 January	12.00pm / Sports Hall
Year 10 - Y Band 10B2, 10C2, 10H2, 10R2	Thursday 6 January	1.00pm / Sports Hall
Year 11 - X Band 11B1, 11C1, 11H1, 11R1	Wednesday 5 January	10.30am / Sports Hall
Year 11 - Y Band 11B2, 11C2, 11H2, 11R2	Wednesday 5 January	11.30am / Sports Hall
Year 12 - 12AJo, 12APu, 12SBt	Wednesday 5 January	2.00pm / Sports Hall
Year 12 - 12STa, 12TDi, 12VHo	Wednesday 5 January	2.30pm / Sports Hall
Year 13 - 13B1, 13B2, 13C1	Wednesday 5 January	12.30pm / Sports Hall
Year 13 - 13C2, 13H1, 13R1	Wednesday 5 January	1.00pm / Sports Hall

Regular testing over the Christmas period is encouraged: further supplies of test kits are readily available for students from their form tutors if required.

We would ask you to remind your children of the safety precautions expected when out of school. If your child exhibits any symptoms - or they are identified as a close contact by Track and Trace - you should book a PCR test as soon as possible.

Thank you, as ever, for your cooperation and continued support, with encouraging testing at home and the use of face coverings in all indoor school areas (unless exemptions apply).

I appreciate the increased concerns regarding the new Omicron variant, but hope these additional measures will help reduce transmission and support everyone staying safe on their return to school in the new year.

As ever, we wish those affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) a speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shapland', written in a cursive style.

James Shapland
Headteacher