



Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

Dear Families,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and send our very best wishes for a safe, happy and peaceful 2022.

I am sure you have seen or heard the updated guidance issued by the Department for Education yesterday detailing some minor updates with regards to how schools should operate with respect to COVID-19. I therefore wanted to make you aware of these as quickly as possible so that you are able to plan accordingly and support your child in their return to school.

### Face Coverings

The main change in the guidance is that from Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, on return to school, all students (apart from those that are exempt) will be required to wear face coverings in all areas of the school, including classrooms. This guidance will be reviewed by the government on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022. I ask that you support us to keep our whole school community as safe as possible by ensuring that your child has a face covering with them every day and are reminded of the importance of wearing them correctly at all times. If your child is exempt and requires an exemption badge and we are not already aware; please do email us at [adminoffice@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:adminoffice@iscaexeter.co.uk) so we can ensure they are supported immediately on their return to school.

### Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)

As you know, we will be closed to students on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January, to allow us to complete lateral flow tests onsite for those students with consent before returning to school. This process remains voluntary and parental consent is needed before we can proceed. Where we already hold consent, this will continue to be valid. If you have not given consent in the past, or if your child has joined the school since the start of term, please complete the consent form if you would like your child to take part in the onsite testing: [Student Testing Consent Form](#).

Previously, students who had tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days were not required to undertake the LFT. This guidance has now changed and we ask that ALL students who have parental consent for a test to be undertaken, irrespective of whether they have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days, should attend school to undertake a lateral flow test.

### Testing will take place as follows:

| Year group | Time               |
|------------|--------------------|
| Year 7     | 9.00am to 10.00am  |
| Year 8     | 10.00am to 11.00am |
| Year 9     | 11.15 to 12.15am   |
| Year 10    | 12.15am to 1.15pm  |
| Year 11    | 1.45pm to 2.45pm   |



Students should enter the school via the PE entrance. Testing will take place in G86, the movement space, and students will exit via the same door. If your child has COVID symptoms they should not attend school site for a LFT, instead please [book a PCR test](#).

### **Reporting a positive case of Covid-19**

Please can I remind all parents that should your child test positive for Covid-19 that you email us on the following email address to notify us: [covid@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:covid@iscaexeter.co.uk) When you email, please state if the positive result is from LFD or PCR and when the test was taken. Thank you for your continued support with this.

### **Weekly Lateral Flow Testing**

Following this initial onsite testing, all students are asked to continue to complete a lateral flow test twice weekly reporting all results to the NHS Test and Trace system. It is strongly recommended that tests are taken in the morning prior to eating. As normal, any student testing positive with a LFT should remain at home with the school being informed using the following email address: [covid@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:covid@iscaexeter.co.uk) All positive lateral flow tests should be followed up with a PCR test and we ask again, that the school are informed of this result.

### **Self-isolation Changes**

From Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR was reduced to 7 days if two negative lateral flow tests are recorded. 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 school from day 8. Anyone who is unable to take the lateral flow tests or who continues to test positive will need to complete the full 10-day isolation period.

### **Daily testing for close contacts of CV-19**

People who are fully vaccinated, or children aged between 5 and 18 years, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, need to take a lateral flow test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal unless they register a positive test or develop symptoms.

We will also continue to ensure that the 4 main control measures are still adhered to within our school as follows: Ensuring good hygiene for everyone, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

I hope this information is useful and enables you to fully prepare for your child to return to school.

Yours faithfully,

Aimee Mitchell

Headteacher