



SIR JOHN DEANE'S SIXTH FORM COLLEGE 1557

3 January, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wishing a happy and prosperous new year to you all. Following the updated guidance from the Government on the return to education following the holiday period, I wish to provide you with important information before we return to college on Tuesday 4th January.

Testing after the holiday period

All students should take one self-test at home using the lateral flow tests which were given out at the end of last term. All students should test themselves either the evening or morning before they return and then continue to test twice weekly at home. This means that our students should either test on Monday evening (3rd January) or Tuesday morning (4th January) and only attend college if the test is negative. If the test result is positive, please arrange for a PCR test immediately and contact the Covid absence line so we can ensure support is put in place.

Students should have enough lateral flow tests to conduct their tests. We are awaiting our next delivery of lateral flow tests and will distribute them to students as soon as we receive them. In the meantime, if you require additional tests then please order them from the [government website](#).

Updated guidance on the use of face coverings

Following the recent guidance from the Department of Education, we ask that all students, unless exempt, wear face coverings at all times when in college buildings. This includes during lessons and in classrooms. They will not have to wear masks in outside areas and may remove them briefly to eat and drink when in college. This guidance will be reviewed by the government on the 26th January.

Given the increased amount of time that students are likely to be wearing masks, we recommend that students bring a spare face covering each day and continue to store them hygienically. Students should remember to regularly wash any reusable cloth masks. If students do forget their face covering, they can purchase a face mask from reception.

Ventilation

We also continue to advise that **outside is best**, we therefore encourage all students to make use of the seating facilities available and enjoy the fresh air whilst not in lessons. Windows and doors will be kept open in all classrooms to ensure good ventilation, it is therefore recommended that all students should dress accordingly to keep warm in lessons and make sure they have plenty of layers.

Continue to practice good hygiene

We ask that you join us in reminding your child about good general hygiene:

- Sanitise frequently, all classrooms have sanitiser dispensers for use on entering and leaving the classroom
- Washing their hands frequently with soap and water
- Not coughing or sneezing into their hands. Instead, covering their mouth and nose with their elbow/tissue and then dispose of used tissues immediately.

Information on the changes to the self-isolation period

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD 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.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and are very much looking forward to the start of term.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Dean,

Assistant Principal