



4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and we are looking forward to seeing our students return to school tomorrow as we start the Lent Term together. Yesterday, the Department for Education provided updated Covid-19 guidance to all schools and full details can be accessed [here](#). We have included below a summary of this guidance that will be implemented at St Nicholas Catholic High School from tomorrow, 5th January.

Face coverings

- From today 4th January, it is recommended that face coverings should be worn in classrooms, in addition to corridors and other communal areas, unless exempt. Students should wear an exemption badge if this is the case. If you believe your child to be exempt and have not previously informed school, please email admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk. The wearing of masks does not apply to PE lessons. This will be a temporary measure due to be reviewed on 26th January.
- Students are therefore expected to wear them in school at all times, except when on the yard at break and lunchtimes and when eating in the dining hall. Students should also continue to wear a face covering when travelling on public and dedicated school transport to and from school. Full details will be shared with students during morning morning registration on Weds 5th January.

Mass onsite testing

- All students with consent will be offered 1 lateral flow test on their return. We are aiming to test as many students as possible tomorrow, 5th January, and complete by lunchtime on Thursday 6th January. Year 13 students who are currently on study leave will be asked to complete a test following their morning exam on either 5th or 6th January. If students are not due to sit an exam on either date we request students attend school where possible during period 3 on Thursday 6th to complete their test
- **Please note, there has been a recent change to the guidance in response to the Omicron variant. If someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are now strongly advised to take part in testing including weekly and onsite mass testing. Therefore all students who we have received consent for, will be offered an onsite test this week, even if they have tested positive within 90 days/since 5th October 2021. If you do not wish for your child to be tested please email covidtesting@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk today.**

Attendance

- It is important to note the latest school guidance issued from the DfE says:



School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure as many children as possible regularly attend school. Where children need to self isolate in accordance with relevant legislation or guidance published by UKHSA or the DHSC or have tested positive for COVID-19, parents must contact school and confirm this and state whether your child is well enough to access remote learning.

Testing

Regular Testing to continue

- Students should continue to home test regularly, at least twice a week, 3-5 days apart. We are awaiting a further delivery of home tests and they will be distributed to students as soon as they are received - we anticipate this will be next week.

Close Contact Testing

- Any students, aged under 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status, who have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. This includes students who have previously tested positive.

Self isolation

- If students display any Covid symptoms, they should not attend school, isolate & seek a PCR test immediately.
- If a positive result is received, they should isolate for 10 days. However since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10 day self-isolation period has been reduced to 7 days, unless students 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 school from day 7.
- Full details can be accessed [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Mrs Fleur MacCready
School Business Manager