



**Assalaamu Alaikum – ‘Peace be upon you’**

Dear Parents/Guardians

I pray that you and your family are well. Aameen.

I am writing to confirm arrangements over the next few weeks and for the start of the new term.

After the holidays, all pupils will return to school at **8:15am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. School will be open from 7:35am, as normal.

**COVID-19 testing for pupils over the holidays**

Pupils are encouraged to follow general public health advice and continue to test when at risk, i.e. in situations where they are more likely to catch or spread COVID-19. This includes if they spend time in crowded and enclosed spaces or before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they catch COVID-19.

**COVID-19 arrangements from January**

During the second term, the school will continue to take steps to minimise the risk of infection. This includes:

- Rapid testing will be offered to all pupils before they return to school. Please read more details below.
- There will continue to be increased ventilation in classrooms and enhanced cleaning, including regular disinfection of frequently touched surfaces.
- Pupils will be encouraged to wash their hands and use sanitiser regularly.
- Pupils will be asked to wear a face covering when:
  - Travelling to and from school, particularly on the Nuneaton school bus.
  - During assemblies and when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas.

**Pupils who test positive for COVID-19**

- Pupils who have one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (persistent cough, high temperature, loss or change of taste/smell) must isolate at home and get a PCR test immediately.
- The result of the test should be shared with the school.
- If a pupil tests positive, they will isolate in line with guidance from NHS Test and Trace.
- Asymptomatic pupils who test positive with a Rapid Lateral Flow test (either in school or at home) must isolate at home immediately and get a PCR test within 2 days to confirm the result.

**COVID-19 testing when pupils return to school in January**

The government has asked schools to offer all pupils one Rapid Lateral Flow test when they return to school in January. A second test should then be taken at home 3-4 days after the first test. Twice weekly home testing will continue from week two.





The first test will be carried out by the pupils themselves in school under the supervision of trained staff. The results are available within 30 minutes and will be shared directly with participating pupils and their parents. Testing is not mandatory, but I would strongly encourage all pupils to take part in order to help protect all of our learners, staff and families. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help pupils to remain in school safely.

All participating pupils should take two tests during the first week back.

- The first test will be in school on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (This is a Teacher Training Day and students will come in, take their test, wait for results, then go home).
- The second test should be taken at home on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (This is a Saturday and pupils should retain the test result for sharing with the school).

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the consent form below. Students should bring the completed form with them on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and go to the Sports Hall for testing. Parents should wait in the staff carpark. Remember, this is a staff training day and students will only come in for testing. Testing will be available from 8am – 3pm and students will only be on site for about 30 minutes.

The privacy notice relating to information collected and retained as part of testing is available on the school website.

#### **Ongoing home testing (twice a week)**

After the initial test in school followed by the home test during the first week back, the government has asked that pupils then continue with twice-weekly testing at home in line with current guidance.

Pupils who agree to home testing will be provided with testing kits for January.

#### **Omicron variant**

The new Omicron variant of COVID-19 has been identified as a variant of concern. Any close contact of someone who has tested positive for the COVID-19 Omicron variant is legally required to isolate for 10 days from the point of last contact. This is regardless of age and vaccination status. Close contacts linked to the COVID-19 Omicron variant will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and they will then be provided with details about self-isolation.

We really appreciate your support with this. If you have any concerns or queries, or need support in any way, please contact the school.

Yours faithfully,

**Anand Patel**

Principal

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**COVID-19 Rapid Tests Registration and Consent Form – Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11**

- **For pupils aged 16 years or younger (in Year 7 to 11)** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.
1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter.
  2. I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
  3. I consent to my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.
  4. I consent that my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
  5. I understand that if my child's results are negative on the lateral flow test, I will not be contacted by the school except where they are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
  6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
  7. I consent that they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
  8. I agree that if my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school and I understand that my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
  9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive, but my child has tested negative, they will continue to attend school but will be tested every day at school for 7 days.

<b>First Name (of pupil)</b>	
<b>Last Name (of pupil)</b>	
<b>Date of Birth (of pupil)</b>	
<b>Year Group</b>	
<b>Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms?</b>	
<b>Home Postcode</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	
<b>Parent's Mobile Number</b>	
<b>Name of parent or guardian (print)</b>	
<b>Signature of parent</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Relationship to student</b>	



## HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

**1** YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

**2** YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

**3** BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

**4** OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

10 SECS

**5** REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

**6** GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

**7** AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

**8** YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

**9** YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT