



1 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: COVID-19 on-site testing for students in January

Further to my letter dated 29 November, this letter will outline all the details you need to consent to your child being tested and the arrangements for them to come into school for their test.

The DfE would like all students to be tested once on-site on their return in January. Therefore, we will be carrying out testing for all students' starting on Tuesday 4 January 2022 with staggered starts to enable us to carry out tests for each year group before they return to school.

These tests are called 'lateral flow tests' and each student will be offered one test in the first week back to school in January. The test is voluntary, but I would strongly recommend everyone to participate to keep our school and community as safe as possible and to help reduce transmission. These tests will help staff and students to remain in school as up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

We would like to invite your child into school from Tuesday 4 January 2022 for their lateral flow test. Please see the table below for the testing schedule. If you do not wish your child to be tested in school on this day please arrange for a lateral flow test to be taken at home the day before attending school. **Please note your child is required to wear school uniform for their test and will return to school the day after as normal.**

Testing Arrangements:

The testing will start with Years 11, 12 and 13 on **Tuesday 4 January 2022** and all other year groups will follow as per the table below. Students will not return to school until the day after their test date and will receive remote learning as set out below:

Year group	Test date	Remote Learning Dates	Return to school
11,12 &13	Tuesday 4 January <i>(no remote learning due to testing)</i>	N/A	Wednesday 5 January
9 & 10	Wednesday 5 January <i>(no remote learning due to testing)</i>	Tuesday 4 January	Thursday 6 January
7 & 8	Thursday 6 January <i>(no remote learning due to testing)</i>	Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 January	Friday 7 January

Be The Best You Can Be

Students will be reminded in assembly on how to access and use Microsoft Teams; Year 7 students will receive full training.

Timings of the day and arrangements for the buses will be sent out in due course, however, students will not be able to use the buses on the day of their test. This is to avoid students that are untested mixing with those who have tested negative. Therefore, students will need to make their own way to and from school on the day of their test. If you are dropping off or picking up you are welcome to wait in the south car park while your child is being tested.

After testing, your child will bring their registration card home with them. If you wish to receive notification from NHS of the result please register your child for their test at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> within 24 hours.

Please note an email regarding Year 13 PPEs will follow shortly.

Consent

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please click on the link relevant to your child's year group below and submit your consent form online. For those parents who have already provided consent forms you will need to repeat the process to ensure we have up to date details. **If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 within a 90 day period prior to 4 January 2022 (on or after 6 October 2021) you should not take the test as it may give a false reading.**

For Years 7-13 please complete by the end of the day Tuesday 7 December

Year 7 -

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nvGPHybGm02sG_u8Be7SQ8lMqcdq6BFmm0pMLabUopUOVZCR1FWUTFNV1RYUjRaQ0dXSUNBT0hNWi4u

Year 8 -

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nvGPHybGm02sG_u8Be7SQ8lMqcdq6BFmm0pMLabUopUQIE3WEZSSVdVNzhPQzBUSFNaVEtERTRaSy4u

Year 9 -

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nvGPHybGm02sG_u8Be7SQ8lMqcdq6BFmm0pMLabUopUNEJNMTIRQjIMT1NGUk9BUkNMUDU3SUE2Si4u

Year 10 -

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nvGPHybGm02sG_u8Be7SQ8lMqcdq6BFmm0pMLabUopUMkE1RzIXVjgwWkwwVkw1S1FNQktTRkplMy4u

Year 11 -

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nvGPHybGm02sG_u8Be7SQ8lMqcdq6BFmm0pMLabUopURFE4Qk5WQzIPVzFIUTcwWk4ySUhSTUkyWS4u

Year 12 -

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nvGPHybGm02sG_u8Be7SQ8lMqcdq6BFmm0pMLabUopUQ1JJM1Y3WEJFQkNPWVhaQ1BZNFVGNFo4NS4u

Year 13 -

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nvGPHybGm02sG_u8Be7SQ8lMqcdq6BFmm0pMLabUopUMjNOOUJLODNPNTdQVzZRWVFDUktQTFRJT4u

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and for under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

What if a pupil tests positive with COVID-19?

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Students will need to self-isolate immediately and take a further 'PCR test'. You can order this online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test.

If the PCR test returns a **positive result** you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will then return to school as per the schedule on Page 1 of this letter. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive with COVID-19 (Delta Variant)?

Children below the age of 18 and those who have been double vaccinated will not have to isolate if they have been a close contact of someone testing positive. However, they would be advised to take a PCR test.

What if you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive with the Omicron variant?

Close contacts of anyone who tests positive with a suspected/confirmed case of Omicron **must self-isolate for ten days**, regardless of whether they have been vaccinated or not.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions you can email: enquiries@st-martins.essex.sch.uk or your child's year administrator.

It remains very important that students and staff continue to test at home, twice a week. If you find you do not have sufficient supply to cover the Christmas period, test kits can be ordered online or collected locally. More information is available [here](#).

One in three people who test positive for COVID-19 do not have symptoms and so regular asymptomatic testing continues to be a vital part of our response to managing the virus.

This is obviously not the start to the January term we would have wanted. However, this short-term disruption is designed to minimise the spread of COVID-19 and keep our staff and students in face-to-face education as well as looking after our health.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Smyrk', with a large loop at the top and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Ian Smyrk
Headteacher