



Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to advise that, following Covid-19 testing at the start of term over 30 positive results have been discovered within the staff and student body of the school. The individuals were sent home immediately to isolate however there was still a large number of students who chose not to test themselves and we strongly recommend that they take a lateral flow test at home as soon as possible. All students have been supplied with testing kits.

Up to a third of individuals who test positive for Covid-19 are asymptomatic and can spread the virus unknowingly. We also have been told of new variants occurring with the latest being Omicron.

As with other public sector services, cases amongst staff have risen, impacting the number available to be on-site. For Norbury High the absence is well into double figures. As per health and safety guidance, if we have eight or more teaching staff test positive we have had to revert to our tier one schedule response with a year group out on remote teaching timetable. What this means is that:

Wednesday 5th Jan	<b>Year 8</b> working from home with work set on Google Classroom. There will not be any live teaching as staff will be used to cover lessons on site.
Thursday 6th Jan	<b>Year 8</b> working from home with work set on Google Classroom. There will not be any live teaching as staff will be used to cover lessons on site
Friday 7th Jan	<b>Year 7</b> working from home with work set on Google Classroom. There will not be any live teaching as staff will be used to cover lessons on site
Monday 10th Jan	<b>Year 7</b> working from home with work set on Google Classroom. There will not be any live teaching as staff will be used to cover lessons on site
All other year groups should attend school as normal using the staggered start times. If this changes we will be in contact. Year 12 & 13 mocks will go ahead as scheduled starting on Thursday 6th January	

2022 which means study also begins on this day with students returning on Thursday 13th January 2022. Sixth-form students should not be on site unless they have an exam from 6.01.22-12.01.22.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). This letter is to inform you of our current situation.

### **Isolation period for Covid-19**

- Even those who have had Covid-19 in the last 90 days should test themselves; reinfections can occur and require polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests to check for the new variant
- Students should be wearing face coverings at all times unless eating or exempt as per government guidelines
- Isolation periods from 22<sup>nd</sup> December have been reduced to seven days in most cases with a caveat; a lateral flow test (LFT) must be taken on day six of isolation (not before) and again 24 hours later on day seven of isolation; this also applies to under 5s; both tests must be negative; students can return to school on day 8
- Your daughter will need to take daily LFTs on days eight, nine and ten of their isolation period; if any of those tests come up positive they must isolate and retest themselves 24 hours later; these should all be recorded on NHS Track and Trace
- Unvaccinated staff and students aged over 18 years and six months will be required to isolate for a full ten days, take a PCR test and complete the LFT daily from day six to day ten
- Please note patients discharged from hospital still have 14-day isolation periods so this may affect some of you not sending students to school
- Anyone who displays symptoms or is deemed a close contact of a positive case and refuses to do an LFT will have to isolate for 10 days; we are obliged to report any staff and students who test positive for Covid-19 or are close contacts of positive Covid-19 cases to Croydon's Director of Public Health Croydon and the local Director of Education

By putting these contingency plans in place and under review we will be able to keep as many students in face-to-face education as possible. The school does remain open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well and are not designated to work from home.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hayden