



Westbourne Avenue
Walker
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 4ED

Dear Parents and Carers,

Arrangements for the start of term, January 2022

As you will be aware, the number of covid infections across the country is rising. We have experienced this ourselves in the last few weeks with an increasing number of positive cases in school.

The information we receive from public health suggests that the rising numbers are likely to continue over the Christmas holiday period.

The government have recommended that everyone continues with regular testing using lateral flow devices over the holiday period and on return to school in January.

The government have also directed **all secondary schools to provide on-site asymptomatic testing to students as they arrive back into school in January. Students should be tested on their first day back to school.** The government accepts that it is impossible to test all students in a secondary school on the one day and has suggested that schools may need to stagger the start of term for students to allow everyone to be tested, as we did at the start of the autumn term.

Students in 6th form, year 11, year 10 and year 9 will return to school on Wednesday 5th January.

Students in years 7 and 8 will return to school on Thursday 6th January.

I appreciate that the additional day not in school may cause difficulties for some families whose child is in year 7 or 8 and I apologise.

Students will only access testing if we have consent from parents and if the student consents to be tested at the time of the test. Whether your child is taking part in testing or not, they will not be able to return to school any sooner than the rest of their year group.

If you have already given consent for your child to take part in on site testing at school, we will assume you continue to give consent unless you contact us to tell us this has changed.

If you have not previously consented, but would like your child to be offered the opportunity to be tested in school, please contact the school and complete the consent forms which will be sent to you.

It is possible that the government guidance to schools may change over the holiday period. We will do our best to keep you informed using the text messaging service, facebook group, website and e-mail.

As always maintaining the safety and wellbeing of students and staff is our overriding concern. On our return to school in January we will continue to do everything we can to ensure that all students are able to access engaging and motivating learning opportunities in a safe and secure environment.

If you have any questions about the arrangements for January or any other aspect of school, please contact the school and we will be happy to discuss things with you,

Best wishes for the holiday period,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Hamilton'.

Karen Hamilton