

18th December 2020

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Return to school in January and Covid testing schedule

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to say that the end of term went very well with pupils and staff in good spirits. They enjoyed the final assembly and the screening of our first ever [Compass Christmas Film](#). This has now been viewed over 500 times across all platforms in less than 24 hours! Please take a look, it will be worth it!

Staggered return to school in January

The government yesterday confirmed that all secondary schools and colleges in England will have a staggered return in January to enable schools to roll out free, rapid coronavirus testing for those that consent to this. These tests provide results in 30 minutes.

This is an excellent development and will mean that we can get closer to normality with fewer disruptions to your child's learning, and greater reassurance that schools are safe places for pupils.

Since September, the school has had just one confirmed case across our pupil and staff body. This new testing regime will help to ensure that the risk is further minimised by tackling asymptomatic transmission.

Subject to your consent, **we have been asked to test each pupil twice**, with the second test 3 days later. We aim to carry out the **first round of testing on Tuesday 5th January and the 2nd round on Friday 8th January**. Following these rounds, pupils will only be tested if they come into contact with a positive case. In this case, they will be tested daily so they do not need to self-isolate.

We aim to test all members of staff during the INSET day on Monday 4th January, then weekly from there forward. Staff will also receive training on how to carry out testing to ensure we are fully and safely set up.

All testing is subject to the consent of parents. Consent forms for testing will be sent out early next week. If parents/carers do not provide consent, **pupils who are identified as contacts of a positive case will be required to isolate at home for 10 days** in line with Public Health England guidelines.

I highly recommend you do give your consent and I myself will be taking the weekly staff test so I can be confident that I am doing my bit to protect our community and those close to me.

Schedule for return to school in January

In line with Department for Education guidance:

- Year 11 will **return to school as normal in full school uniform** on Tuesday 5th January and have normal lessons. They will have an opportunity to take a rapid coronavirus test on Tuesday and Friday.
- The school will make on-site provision for the children of critical workers and those considered to be vulnerable such as those who are looked after or have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Please see the list of the categories at the end of this letter and let us know if your child fits into any of these categories and require on-site provision: [Sign up for critical worker and vulnerable pupils](#)

This will mean your child can **return to school as normal in full school uniform** on Tuesday 5th January, access virtual lessons in our computer room and enjoy break-time snacks and lunch. They will have an opportunity to take a rapid coronavirus test on Tuesday and Friday.

- **All other pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will remain at home and complete virtual learning for the week.** However, we plan to offer rapid coronavirus testing for these pupils during designated slots on Tuesday 5th and Friday 8th. (See table below) Those who have consent to be tested will come in during their allocated time and leave as soon as tested. They do not need to wear uniform for this visit. We will confirm the time slots with you in due course.

If your child tests positive, parents will be contacted and they will be sent home to self-isolate and will need to book a further NHS test to confirm the result.

Year	Date	Arrival	Activity
11	Tuesday 5 th January to Friday 8 th January 2021	08:30-08:45	Full teaching days - Main Entrance
7	Tuesday 5 th January and Friday 8 th January 2021	11:00	Rapid coronavirus testing - Webster Road Entrance
8	Tuesday 5 th January and Friday 8 th January 2021	12:30	Rapid coronavirus testing - Webster Road Entrance
9	Tuesday 5 th January and Friday 8 th January 2021	14:00	Rapid coronavirus testing - Webster Road Entrance
10	Tuesday 5 th January and Friday 8 th January 2021	15:30	Rapid coronavirus testing - Webster Road Entrance

Full on-site provision for all year groups will resume on Monday 11th January.

I appreciate your support this term and your patience as we finalise our response to the DfE Guidance we received yesterday.

Meanwhile, I have also created a [question form](#) for you to submit any questions you may have. I will collate these and respond in a FAQ letter before the start of term.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Marcus Huntley', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marcus Huntley
Principal

List of pupils outside Year 11 who can attend school

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child, have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services, adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers, other children and young people at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

If your child meets any of the criteria above and require on-site provision, please complete this form: [Sign up for critical worker and vulnerable pupils](#).