

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your families are well and that you were able to enjoy a safe and relaxing festive break. I am grateful for your support with the staggered return this week. The testing has run smoothly, thanks to our dedicated staff and parent volunteers.

As ever, I am extremely proud of how our students have returned to school. Their approach to testing has been superb. They have been polite, calm and patient in our testing centre. This attitude has then continued in lessons, with an enthusiasm for learning and being in school.

Moving forward, we are continuing to take precautions to reduce the risk of transmission in school. The key points around this can be found in our risk assessment. You can read this on our website using the following link: <https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/assets/POLICIES/Risk-Assessment-CV19-FZ-January-2022.pdf>

In addition to the risk assessment, there are several key pieces of information around our COVID-19 measures that I would like to draw your attention to.

### **Face Masks**

As outlined in my letter at the end of last term, and in line with the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance, all students and staff will be expected to wear face masks in school, unless they have an exemption. This is in both communal areas and in lessons. Essentially, whenever they are inside, a mask should be worn.

We will remind students about this regularly and have some stock of spare masks for when students forget their own. However, please can I ask for your support in ensuring that your child comes to school each day with either a clean reusable, or new disposable mask. This is a key measure for reducing transmission.

This measure will be in place until the 26<sup>th</sup> of January in the first instance. We will review this based on the updated DfE guidance, the local situation, and school case numbers. I will update you closer to the time to let you know of any changes.

### **Ventilation and Hand hygiene**

Staff will continue to ventilate their classrooms to increase airflow, in line with the DfE guidance. We know this can mean students will be cold, especially in winter months. Staff will use their judgement



around letting students wear coats in lessons. However, students will only be allowed to wear a coat if they are wearing full school uniform already. This means students should be wearing their shirt, jumper, and blazer, before putting a coat on. Hoodies and non-uniform jumpers are not permitted. We do hold stock of second-hand uniform. Please contact the office if you would like to purchase some additional uniform.

Hand sanitiser dispensers continue to be in key locations around the school. Teachers will also have bottles for students to use as they come into the classrooms. Students are welcome to bring their own sanitiser into school if they wish. Please remind your child to regularly sanitise their hands around school.

## Testing

At the moment we continue to have a regular supply of testing kits. These will be distributed to students every 3 weeks. This will ensure all students and staff can test twice a week at home. Please encourage your child to do this regularly. It has proven an effective way for our school community to detect symptomatic cases.

Please continue to register your results on both the NHS website, and on our school recording system.

NHS results reporting: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/forms/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result)

Fitzharrys reporting: <https://forms.office.com/r/X6ab3cMNAi>

If your child tests positive on the LFD test and is symptomatic, then they should book a PCR. If they test positive on an LFD test, but are not showing symptoms, then they should self-isolate, but do not need to book a PCR.

In all cases you should let the school know by emailing [covid.reporting@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:covid.reporting@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk)

I am aware that there have been changes to the testing rules in recent days. To clarify, the DfE guidance states that:

*Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.*

The following link has a timeline which illustrates the guidance clearly: [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#). This is subject to change as rules are adjusted.

## Vaccinations

Yesterday we received notification that young people aged 12 to 15 in England are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Parents can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#).

Vaccination for this group will also continue to be carried out by the school age immunisation service (SAIS). We are yet to receive notification from the SAIS about when they will be offering vaccinations for Fitzharrys students. Once we have this information, we will pass it on to you. As with the previous



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vaccination process this is not administered by the school.

### Remote Learning

With the current high number of cases, there is an increased risk of staff absence. So far, we have not had to send any students home to learn remotely due to staff absence. However, we know this may be necessary in the coming weeks.

We have contingencies in place to reduce the likelihood of this happening, such as teaching multiple classes together in the hall. We do not want students to work from home but know that at times there may be no other option.

In this instance we will ask lower school year groups (9, 8 & 7) to work from home. This will be done on a day-by-day basis, with an individual year group working from home. If further remote learning is necessary, then a different year group would work remotely on the following day. Online work will be set via EPrise, and teachers will be available online for each lesson to support students with their work via Teams. We will contact you via email to let you know of this eventuality. This will include details of how we will cater for vulnerable students or the children of key workers.

We are aware that remote learning requires digital access and not every student has this. Please can you complete the following digital access survey. <https://forms.office.com/r/rcVbBH53JZ>  
This will help us prepare for any remote learning, ensuring every student gets the best possible opportunities in this scenario.

Once again, thank you for your support going forward. We know there will be challenges in the term ahead. However, we are confident that we will continue to provide the best possible education for our young people, whilst also keeping them safe and well in school.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke  
Head of School



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