

St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy

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Headteacher: Mr R. Hibbard



'We commit ourselves to love, respect and serve one another as disciples of Jesus Christ'

Dear parents,

I hope that you and your families had an enjoyable Christmas and a good start to 2022. You will be aware that cases of COVID are currently extremely high and so once again I am asking the school community to work together to keep everybody safe. I have reviewed the latest guidance from the Department for Education and would like to make you aware of the following:

1. Wearing of face coverings.

The Department for Education is now asking that all students wear their face coverings in **both** classrooms and communal areas. The school only has a very limited supply of face coverings and so we ask that you supply your child with an appropriate face covering for them to use in school. If your child is exempt from the wearing of a face covering then we ask that parents communicate this with the school so that they can be issued with a pass.

2. Lateral flow testing

As we have already communicated with parents the start of the term will be staggered to allow us to conduct lateral flow testing on all students who have consent. The arrangements can be seen below:

	Testing	In school
Tuesday 4th January (INSET day)	Year 7: 9 -11:30am Year 11: 12:30 – 3:00pm	-
Wednesday 5th January	Year 8: 9 -11:30am Year 10: 12:30 – 3:00pm	Years 7 and 11
Thursday 6th January	Year 9: 9-11:30am	Years 7, 8, 10 and 11
Friday 7th January	-	All years

The school will continue to issue lateral flow testing kits to students, these can be collected from student services. Students should continue to test twice per week, even if they have tested positive for COVID within the last 90 days.

3. Students who test positive for COVID.

There have been changes to isolation periods when a person receives a positive COVID test result. The procedures should be:

- If your child has a positive LFT result this should be confirmed by a further PCR test, which can be booked through the government website.
- If your child has a positive PCR test, they should isolate in line with NHS advice.
- On days 6 and 7 you can give your child a LFT, if your child is negative on both days then your child can return to school on day 7.
- If your child is positive on day 6, they must have a negative test result on days 7 and 8.
- Please note that even the faintest of lines on a LFT should be treated as a positive test outcome.
- Your child should not return to school if they still have a high temperature, in these cases please liaise with 119.

If your child does test positive for COVID please inform the school as soon as possible.

4. Parents visiting school

We do ask during this period of time, that parents do not visit the school unnecessary. If you need to visit, you must wear a face covering. Where possible we will conduct meetings with parents via MS Teams.

In my letter at the end of last term I expressed my appreciation at your support in working together to make St Bede's as safe as possible, I am sure that we will be able to do the same this term.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Hibbard

Headteacher