



3rd January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

**Return to school - Reminder for 4th & 5th January
COVID 19 Testing in School**

I trust you have had a safe and enjoyable break and are looking forward to what 2022 can offer the THS community. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the plans and recent updates from the Government for returning to school this term.

Following the Christmas break, we are required to offer **all** students one lateral flow test in school before returning to lessons. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic and by testing we will help reduce the spread in school and college settings.

The tests will be carried out before students return to lessons. Please see the schedule below for the planned return to school this week.

Schedule for testing and return to school in January

Tuesday 4th January	8.50am – 10.40am: Onsite Covid tests for Years 11, 12 and 13 10.40am onwards Years 11, 12 and 13 return to normal lessons 11.00am - 12.50pm: Onsite Covid testing for Years 7 and 8 1.25-3.15pm: Onsite Covid testing for Years 9 and 10
Wednesday 5th January	All year groups in school

As in September, students will test themselves with supervision from trained staff and although the tests are voluntary, we would encourage everyone to take one.

Testing can only be carried out with consent. If you have previously consented for your child to be tested, you do not have to re-consent. If you wish your child to be included in the testing and have not yet given consent, please complete the following form or contact the school by emailing office@holmesdale.kent.sch.uk

Consent form:
<https://forms.office.com/r/p7qJLdBrW/c>

What if a student tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow test, they will need to self-isolate immediately and a confirmatory PCR test ordered. The PCR test should be taken within two days of a positive LFD test.



If the confirmatory PCR test is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

If the confirmatory PCR test is negative, the student can stop isolating and return to school.

What if a pupil has recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If a student has tested positive on a PCR in the last 90 days, they should not participate in the return to school testing, as there is a risk it could display a false positive result.

Facemasks

Face coverings help protect the wearer and others against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of COVID-19.

From 4th January, until further notice, we strongly recommend that face coverings be worn by students, staff and visitors when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas. This is a temporary measure.

We also recommend that face coverings be worn in classrooms. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. This will also be a temporary measure.

Students must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school.

If you have any questions or need any further information about the school's provision and management of covid and the testing programme, please use the contact

louise.harris@holmesdale.kent.school.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr G Prebble
Head of School