



The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College

3rd January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you have had an enjoyable Christmas period and managed to spend time with family and friends – though if your holiday has been anything like mine you may have seen all your carefully made plans collapse due to covid!

As we start the January term, I thought it would be helpful to remind you of the arrangements that we made at the end of last term and also to share with you the changes that have been brought in by the government over the holiday.

Firstly, as you know, the school will open as a testing centre on January 5th but will remain closed for lessons on this day. The school term will therefore start at 8.50 on Thursday January 6th for all students in years 7- 11. Please make sure your child attends school in full school uniform and brings a face mask with them.

A number of year 11 students have been invited into school on January 5th for revision sessions to prepare them for external exams and the staff involved in these sessions are looking forward to working with these students on Wednesday.

All students should arrive at the school sports hall for their Covid tests in the following time slots and will be able to leave the site as soon as they have been tested. However, if you have children in different year groups then please do bring them all at the same time so that you only need to make one trip to the school. If your child's test result is positive, we will inform you by phone immediately and you should then book a PCR test to confirm the result.

Year 11 9 am -10 am

Year 10 10 am -11 am

Year 9 11 am -12 pm

Year 8 12.30 pm -1.30 pm


Year 7 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm

The majority of you have already given us authority to test your child. If you have not done so previously, and wish to do so now, please use the link below to access the form for parental consent: <https://forms.gle/zde1VnAixuCsmNPk7>

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As I am sure you will have seen on the news, **students are expected to wear face masks at all times within school buildings** until this is reviewed on January 26th. Whilst I appreciate this is not a pleasant situation for the students, it is a necessary step to try to reduce the spread of the virus and to help us maintain high staffing levels. The Secretary of State for Education has publicly recognised that the high rates of covid may cause difficulties with the availability of staff and, as a community, we need to do all that we can to work together to keep our school open and your children in face-to-face education.

Another relevant change to guidance relates to the conditions around self-isolation. The latest guidance says:

'young people aged between 5 and 18 years 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.'

Previously we have asked that you keep your children at home if you have covid in the household however this new guidance means that **students that are close contacts can come to school – but only if they are using daily lateral flow tests that show a negative result**. Additionally, students can return to school on day 8 after a covid infection as long as they have had a negative lft test on days 6 and 7. **Please note that if you choose not to test your child then they will need to isolate for the full 10 days.**

The school is expecting a new delivery of test kits during this week and these will be available for students to bring home at the start of the second week of term. Please continue to test on a Sunday and Thursday and upload the results onto the Google form that is sent out for this purpose.

As a school, we will continue to provide your sons and daughters with a high quality education through this stage of the pandemic. It is possible that at times your child's teachers may be at home with covid and, if this results in high levels of staff absence, we may need to double up classes or, as a final resort, ask specific year groups to work from home. Please be assured that we will do all that we can to ensure that children are in school with their own teachers wherever possible as I recognise how important stability is to young people. However, we have contingency plans in place to manage the possible turbulence caused by staff absence and will keep you informed if changes need to be put in place.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Davies
Headteacher