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4 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carers

## Return to School Arrangements - Update

I would like to wish you a Happy New Year.

Staff are looking forward to welcoming our students back during the course of this week. Ahead of this, we are sharing relevant important updates to guidance for schools and reminders of our arrangements at BFS.

# Updated guidance on the use of face coverings in Schools

Government guidance is now that face coverings should be worn in all secondary school classrooms, as well as communal areas. This advice will be reviewed on 26 January, when Plan B regulations are scheduled to expire. Please ensure your child has a face covering and explain to them that they must be worn at all times in school. If your child is exempt, they must wear their school exemption lanyard.

### Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

The 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

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. If both of 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 setting from day 8. These LFD test results must be submitted via <a href="https://www.testregister.co.uk">www.testregister.co.uk</a>

## Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 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.

#### **Lateral Flow Testing in Term 3**

All schools have been asked to reopen their Asymptomatic Test Centres and carry out one Lateral Flow Test on site before students return to face to face lessons. Some parents have asked whether their child should be tested if they have had Covid recently. Official advice on this has been updated and the DfE has now confirmed that testing is advised: "Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site and at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection." Therefore, so long as your child is not still in their isolation period, please send them into school to be tested on their allocated test day.



### **BFS Asymptomatic Test Site**

Students should arrive at Concorde Drive student gate at the times stated below and will be on site for no more than 30 minutes. Face coverings need to be worn, unless exempt. School uniform is not required. Students should not attend if they are displaying any symptoms, but instead should arrange a PCR test and isolate until they receive a negative result.

### **Consent**

If your child took part in on-site testing in September 2021 then we already have your consent and will use the details provided at the time. If there have been any changes or you now wish to give consent please complete this form <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/eQqTuNYxrN">https://forms.office.com/r/eQqTuNYxrN</a>

If you have not given consent for testing then your child is not expected to come to school on the test day and will continue with core subject tasks at home.

Should you have any questions relating to testing please email <a href="mailto:covid.testing@bristolfreeschool.org.uk">covid.testing@bristolfreeschool.org.uk</a>

The schedule for on-site testing is below. After their test in school, students are asked to continue to test twice a week at home and to log their result on Test Register.

Wednesday 5 January 2022				
TG	Arrival	Test time		
7TG1	8.50	9.00		
7TG2	9.10	9.20		
7TG3	9.30	9.40		
7TG4	9.50	10.00		
7TG5	10.10	10.20		
7TG6	11.00	11.10		
7TG7	11.20	11.30		
8TG1	11.40	11.50		
8TG2	12.00	12.10		
8TG3	1.00	1.10		
8TG4	1.20	1.30		
8TG5	1.40	1.50		
8TG6	2.00	2.10		
8TG7	2.20	2.30		

Thursday 6 January 2022				
TG	Arrival	I Test time		
9TG1	8.50	9.00		
9TG2	9.10	9.20		
9TG3	9.30	9.40		
9TG4	9.50	10.00		
9TG5	10.10	10.20		
9TG6	11.00	11.10		
9TG7	11.20	11.30		
10TG1	11.40	11.50		
10TG2	12.00	12.10		
10TG3	1.00	1.10		
10TG4	1.20	1.30		
10TG5	1.40	1.50		
10TG6	2.00	2.10		
10TG7	2.20	2.30		

Friday 7 January 2022				
TG	Arrival	Test time		
11TG1	8.50	9.00		
11TG2	9.10	9.20		
11TG3	9.30	9.40		
11TG4	9.50	10.00		
11TG5	10.10	10.20		
11TG6	11.00	11.10		
11TG7	11.20	11.30		
12TG1 12TG2	11.40	11.50		
12TG3				
12TG4	12.00	12.10		
13TG1				
13TG2	1.00	1.10		
13TG3				
13TG4	1.20	1.30		

### **Return to School Schedule**

We will use remote teaching to ensure all students start their education from Wednesday 5 January. We will stagger the face to face teaching from Wednesday 5 - Friday 7 January to enable testing to happen. Live teaching using Microsoft Teams will be used to deliver lessons as per your child's timetable including tutor time at 8.30am. On the day your child is asked to come in for their test we will set CORE tasks on Class Charts instead of online lessons. This is to allow for travel time and different appointment slots.

The teaching schedule for this week is below:

Date	Students attending for an on- site LFT then return home Tasks set on Class Charts	Students learning on Teams  - live lessons	Students on site for normal lessons
Wed 5 Jan	Year 7 Year 8	Y9, 10, 11, 12, 13	None
Thurs 6 Jan	Year 9 Year 10	Y11, 12, 13	Year 7 Year 8
Fri 7 Jan	Year 11 Year 12 Year 13	none	Year 7, 8, 9 and 10

### ALL YEAR GROUPS WILL RETURN TO NORMAL SCHOOL ON MONDAY 10 JANUARY

Once again the return to school is complicated and we thank you for your understanding and support to protect our community.

**Best Wishes** 

Headteacher