

Thursday, 02 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We want to thank all our parents/carers and students for their continued support and understanding they have shown throughout the autumn term and, in particular, adapting to the recent changes in COVID-19 measures which includes wearing masks in communal areas on the school site.

You may be aware that guidance for schools has been revised, aligned with the Government's response to the emergence of the new Omicron variant of COVID-19. Part of this new guidance includes secondary schools offering one lateral flow test to all students, on site, before returning to the classroom in January.

This will have an impact on the start dates for students with individual year groups returning on different dates to facilitate the testing.

By testing we will help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 through asymptomatic transmission. We are therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested and to continue with self-testing at home on a twice weekly basis (Sunday and Wednesday are recommended) and recording the results on the [school form](#).

Lateral flow testing on site will be carried out in a controlled manner, with trained and experienced school staff. All students will receive clear guidance so that they can successfully complete the test independently and continue to test at home.

We will require all parental consents for the next round of testing to be renewed by clicking on the link below and completing the [consent form](#). All consents must be received no later than Friday 10th December 2021.

Year 9 students who have consent to be tested will attend school on **Thursday 6th January** arriving at school at a specific time (see table on the next page). Students will arrive via the dining room doors and will then be guided to the sports hall. Students will then go through the testing centre. **Once students have completed their test they will return home for the rest of the day**

The parents/carers of any students who tested positive will be contacted on the same day and a PCR test will need to be arranged. The result of any PCR test will need to be forwarded to school at the following email address: attendance@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk. If the PCR test is negative, your child can then return to school. If the PCR confirms a positive result, then your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days from when symptoms started. If there are no symptoms the 10-day isolation will start from the date of the first lateral flow test.

If you do not receive contact from school on the Thursday 6th January you can assume your child has had a negative lateral flow result and they will start lessons on the Friday 7th January

If your child has not been given consent to test at school, they will remain at home until their first day of lessons on Friday 7th January.

The table on the next page outlines the testing time for each tutor group in January. Students will arrive via the dining room and will be directed by staff to the testing centre.

Year 9 testing arrangements

Tutor Group	Staggered arrival time for testing on Thursday 6th January	First Day in lessons
9A1/9A2	08:50	Friday 7th January
9A3/9A4	09:10	
9A5/9B1	09:40	
9B2/9B3	10:10	
9B4/9B5	10:40	

We wish everyone a lovely Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Yours faithfully,

S Kibble

Mrs S Kibble
Headteacher