

3 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer/Student,

New Year Updates

Firstly may we wish you all a Happy New Year. May we also take this opportunity to remind all parents, carers and students of the revised return to school arrangements for this week:

- Years 10 to 13 return to lessons on **Wednesday 5 January**
- Years 7 to 9 return to lessons on **Thursday 6 January**

Those who consented for in-school testing have received their appointments. Where a pupil or student is not taking part we encourage them to complete a test at home before returning to school. Doing so will help reduce transmission after the holidays.

Over recent weeks there have been a number of updates to government guidance which we have attempted to summarise below. The information is correct at the time of writing but is subject to change from local or national government.

Face coverings

The government are now recommending face coverings are worn in classrooms as well as in indoor communal areas such as corridors. This applies to pupils/students, staff and adults visitors unless exempt. Face coverings should fit securely around the face to cover the nose and mouth. Please ensure all pupils/students come to school with a suitable face covering. Given the increased use it is essential that individuals have a suitable supply and may wish to consider bringing a spare to wear if theirs becomes damp or dirty during the day.

When wearing or removing a face covering the government advice is:

- Wash or sanitise hands thoroughly before putting on or removing a face covering
- Only handle the straps, ties or clips and avoid touching the part in contact with the mouth and nose
- Avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession
- Change the face covering if it becomes damp
- Once removed store reusable face coverings in a plastic bag until it can be washed
[Single-use face coverings should be disposed of in household waste and do not recycle]

Visitors

In line with government guidance we strongly encourage all visitors (including parents) to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before entering the school premises. Visitors are also expected to wear a face covering unless exempt. Visitors should only be on site by prior appointment.

COVID cases

Pupils/students should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. **They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or are required to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).**

If a pupil/student develops COVID-19 symptoms whilst in school, however mild, they should be sent home.

Pupils/students with a positive lateral flow device test result should self-isolate. They will need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19 and continue to self-isolate whilst awaiting the result. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

If a pupil/student tests positive via a lateral flow device test or PCR then they must self-isolate for 10 full days. They can stop self-isolating after 7 days if they do rapid lateral flow test on days 6 and 7 and:

- both tests are negative
- they did both tests at least 24 hours apart
- they do not have a high temperature

If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8. Any pupil/student who is unable to take lateral flow device tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Please ensure all pupil/student absences are reported promptly by emailing:

secondaryabsence@roundhayschool.com (Years 7-11) or sixthform@roundhayschool.com (Years 12-13)

We are required to keep a log of all COVID-19 cases within our school community. To help us to do this please ensure you include the following details in your absence email:

- last date the pupil/student was in school
- symptom start date (if any) and a brief description of any symptoms
- test date and type, result date and result
- expected return to school date

Close contacts

Pupils/students (aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months) who are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 should take a lateral flow device test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive result or develop symptoms.

Those who have tested positive within the past 90 days are now advised to undertake lateral flow testing due to the potential of reinfection posed by the omicron variant.

Vaccination

Last term the government confirmed that young people aged 12-17 would be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose. Healthy school-aged children aged 12-15 will be able to receive their vaccination in school and we await further information.

In response to the threat from the Omicron variant, a Pfizer booster vaccine is being offered to:

- children aged 12-15 who are in a clinical risk group or who are a household contact of immunosuppressed individuals, and those who are severely immunosuppressed and have had a third primary dose
- all young people aged 16 to 17 years old

The NHS will communicate how eligible children and young people can get their boosters shortly.

Lateral Flow Device Tests

Regular testing is an important way of identifying cases and reducing transmission. All pupils/students are encouraged to continue to test twice weekly (or daily if identified as a close contact as explained above). Kits are available from school as follows:

- Pupils in Years 7 to 11 should collect them from their form tutor
- Students in Years 12 and 13 should collect them from the sixth form office

Other controls

In addition to all of the above we continue to have in place a series of ongoing measures:

- Pupils/students should wash or sanitise their hands on arrival at every lesson.
- Doors and windows remain open as far as possible to aid ventilation.
Whilst coats cannot be worn in school pupils/students may wish to consider the layers they wear.
- Enhanced cleaning remains in place, particularly of contact points around school.
Pupils/students may be asked to facilitate the cleaning of their workspace or shared resources.

Thank you to all our pupils/students and parents for your ongoing efforts and support as we continue to navigate the challenges posed by COVID-19, and take the necessary steps to reduce transmission and minimise disruption to education. We are most successful when we work together as a school community (staff, pupils/students and parents) and we look forward to working together over the year ahead.

The Roundhay Team