

Tuesday, 14 December 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE END OF AUTUMN TERM AND THE START OF THE SPRING TERM 2022

I hope that this email finds you and your families well. As I write to you, we are currently enjoying a little bit of the festive spirit as staff and students are enjoying the Christmas Jumper Mufti day. I am sure you are really looking forward to enjoying the Christmas holiday period. Please note this letter contains a number of important links. It seems we are not out of the woods regarding the pandemic and safety measures.

Students have worked very hard this term and, to inject some fun to the end of term, their Head of Year has planned a festive activity for the final day of this autumn term. Students will end their day on Friday 17th December as follows:

Years 7, 8 and 10	12:00pm
Years 9, 11 and 6 th Form	12:10pm

Further to my letter informing you of the need for lateral flow testing, I am writing to confirm arrangements for the student's return to school in January.

The DfE has said that *"all secondary pupils 'should' receive **one** on-site lateral flow test prior to their return in January.* Schools can stagger the return of students across the first week to manage this. Therefore, the arrangements for the first few days of the spring term 2022 are outlined below. Please note that on Tuesday and Wednesday, 4th & 5th January respectively, students need only attend school for their lateral flow test at their allocated time detailed below. They do not need to wear school uniform to complete their test. All students will return to school for registration as normal on Thursday 6th January.

Arrangements for the return to school in January 2022 & testing timetable:

Date	Year group	Tutor Group	Time slot
Tuesday 4 th January	Year 10 & Year 12	R, O, Y, G	11:00am – 12:00pm
		B, I, V, W	12:00pm – 1:00pm
	Year 11 & Year 13	R, O, Y, G	1:00pm – 2:00pm
		B, I, V, W	2:00pm – 3:00pm
Wednesday 5 th January	Year 7	R, O, Y, G	9:00am – 10:00am
		B, I, V, W	10:00am – 11:00am
	Year 8	R, O, Y, G	11:00am – 12:00pm
		B, I, V, W	12:00pm – 1:00pm
	Year 9	R, O, Y, G	1:00pm – 2:00pm
		B, I, V, W	2:00pm – 3:00pm
Thursday 6 th January	All students in school. Normal start time. Lessons resume.		
Friday 7 th January	All students in school.		

Asymptomatic Testing:

Students invited into school to complete their LFD test will return home once they have had their test. Anyone who has not yet provided consent, please click this [link](#) to provide consent for your child to have an LFD test and read the [Privacy Notice](#).

If you have changed your mind and would like to withdraw consent for LFD testing, please email the school.

Mask wearing:

In line with updated government guidance, please remember to ensure that your child comes to school with a face mask to wear when in internal communal areas. This measure is currently applicable to staff, students and visitors until further notice.

Uniform Expectations – a reminder

We have the highest standards of presentation and we feel strongly that **the school uniform must be worn with pride by all our students on the way to school and on the way home from school**. We do not accept students being out of school uniform unless there is an explicit and valid explanation which has been discussed with your child's Head of Year or a Senior Leader.

As always, we would like to support our Rooks Heath families to recycle uniforms where possible and, in particular, to exchange blazers for larger sizes where required. We have a number of pre-owned blazers and other items of uniform in good condition. If your child's blazer has become too small and is still in a good condition, we would be very pleased to arrange an exchange. We are also happy to accept other uniform donations. Please ensure items are cleaned before donating. If you have uniform to donate, please deliver it to the school reception.

We understand that there may be some families experiencing financial hardship. We would also be happy to support by providing a blazer (blue or black) or other items of school clothing where we have stock. We cannot accept any money for any items we give you, however if you would like to give something in return, we would encourage you to support any of the fundraising initiatives we promote. If you are interested in sourcing second-hand uniform from the school, please email the school or ask at Reception and someone will contact you to make the necessary arrangements.

The basic standards to which we expect all students to adhere have not changed. Please take the time to remind yourself of those standards by reading through all of the detail on the uniform page of our website: [Uniform Expectations](#) .

In particular, we would like to draw your attention to our expectations regarding jewellery and piercings. Students may wear one small set of studs in their ear lobes. **No other form of piercing is permitted** and no other jewellery beyond a wristwatch. **Students will be asked to remove any additional piercings that are visible. Hair must be of a natural colour**. We will not engage in conversations about uniform and piercings or jewellery which may take up valuable time in teaching, learning and building a positive ethos and culture in and around the school. I am confident that all our parents and carers will support the school by adhering to the Home/ School agreement and ensuring that your child follows our regulations so we can focus on the important aspects of learning and development.

Attendance and punctuality drive

We would like to congratulate every child who has achieved at least 95% or above attendance throughout this term. We know that the need to be alert to the symptoms of Coronavirus have had an impact on the consistent attendance we experienced before the pandemic. Remember, every day of learning counts and

your child's academic success is directly linked to their ability to be in school learning from face-to-face teaching. We want every child to experience the successes we are able to enjoy year on year. We know that being at school every day and on time enhances how well students feel a sense of belonging and part of the school community. We look forward to seeing every student in school and ready to learn from their first day of school in January.

Please refer to our [Attendance and Punctuality Drive letter](#) sent on the 22nd November 2021.

Holiday Travel

If you have already booked to travel abroad, please be safe, be aware and mindful and keep your eye on the status for individuals returning from abroad to the UK. If there are any issues, please keep the school informed at every stage. This website will be helpful to review: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Communication during the holiday period

For any communication, please email the school at contactus@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk. Please remember that, during the holiday periods, the mailbox will be checked however this will be infrequent and you may experience more of a delay than during the school term. Please keep an eye on our website for any updates.

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read and get to the end of this letter. We hope you will enjoy reading about our community in the autumn term newsletter.

May I wish you a safe, healthy and happy festive season with your families and we look forward to hopefully having a successful and smooth start in January 2022.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Manderson
Headteacher

Please note this testing programme does not change the advice: If your child has any symptoms of Covid-19, they MUST NOT come into school and must book a PCR test as soon as possible

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED


1 YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2 YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

3 BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4 OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

10 SECS



5 REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6 GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7 AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8 YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

9 YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

