



07/01/2022

Dear Parents/ Carers

New Term Arrangements

All students will return to school on Monday 10th January and as the school reopens, I wanted to update you on the way we will be working in the spring term, and to highlight some changes in the Welsh Government guidance which will affect us all.

1. Face coverings:

As at the end of last term, face coverings should be worn by all secondary aged students in all indoor areas, including classrooms, where physical distance cannot be maintained. This also applies on school transport.

2. Lateral Flow testing:

It is recommended that all secondary school staff and students should test three times a week before entering school using LFDs (on Sunday evening/Monday morning, Tuesday evening/Wednesday morning and Thursday evening/Friday morning) and record their results online [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result). If you have not yet given permission for your child to receive LFD tests from us and to use them accordingly, please get in touch with the pastoral team who will give you the relevant information you need, or alternatively, you can give your permission by clicking the appropriate link on our website here: https://www.aberconwy.conwy.sch.uk/en_gb/covid-19-lft-testing/

3. Isolation for positive C19 cases:

On 05/01/22 a written statement by the Minister for Health and Social Services stated that those showing **no symptoms who have a positive lateral flow test, will no longer be advised to have a follow-up PCR test** unless advised to do so otherwise by TTP. **If, however, any student has symptoms of COVID-19, they should book a PCR test as soon as possible.** In either case, students receiving a positive test result should self-isolate. The isolation period remains at 10 days, but if your child records negative lateral flow tests on day 6 **and** day 7 of the isolation period, they may finish their isolation early on day 8 (and return to school).

4. Household contacts:

As you will know, we have previously asked students who have been in contact with household members who have tested positive for Covid 19 to stay away from school during the isolation period. This term, in line with national guidance, we are asking students who have been in close contact with family members testing positive to complete a daily lateral flow test for a period of 7 days. As long as these tests remain negative, your child may continue to attend school.

5. Close contacts in school:

If there are five or more positive Covid 19 cases identified within a year group, daily LFT testing may be recommended, to try and contain the spread of the virus. **We will contact you by email if your child is required to do this.**

6. Online Learning:

If numbers of cases in a particular year group continue to rise beyond this, or if a high proportion of staff contract the virus at any one time, we may ask children in a single year group to work from home, online, for a period of one school week. We will only ask you to do this as a last resort, and if we do, there will be provision for children of keyworkers and those who need specific educational support in school. There will also be financial support available for those students who receive Free School Meals, and we are also able to provide resources to support online learning if a student does not have access to them at home.

I am sure you will appreciate what a challenging time this continues to be for the school community, but I hope you find this summary useful. If you have any questions, or need any specific support for your child as they return to school, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With many thanks and best wishes for a happy new year,

Ian Gerrard

Headteacher.

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