St Andrew's Prep
EASTBOURNE

EASTBOURNE
COLLEGE

16 December 2021

New year Covid-prevention arrangements

Dear Parents,

We are enormously proud of the way our two schools have finished the term. There has been some considerable disruption but we hope that you have enjoyed the nativities, carol services, and performances – whether online or in person – and share our pride in everything the pupils have achieved this year.

By the time term resumes in the new year, the government will have given us some more guidance that might affect travel or in-school Covid mitigation methods. We feel, however, that it is best to get on the front foot by explaining our intentions for the start of the term. We will update you if anything substantial changes.

After the Christmas break and all the mixing, a good clear start to next term is the best way to be as safe as we can and guarantee continued first-class education. Over the past month, we have seen considerable spread of Covid among the unvaccinated pupils, principally those age 7-11 who have not had the opportunity to get the vaccine.

Accordingly, we ask that **prior to the start of term,** all pupils in our schools **from Year 3** (those aged 7 and above) to Upper Sixth **complete two lateral flow tests (on Sunday 2 and Wednesday 5 January) and record it on the school system using the appropriate link:**

Link for Eastbourne College pupils
Link for St Andrew's pupils

If your child tests positive, or **if they have any symptoms** then please go on to get a PCR test and keep them at home until you receive the result. If negative, then your child may return to school immediately. If the PCR test returns a positive result then please follow the self-isolation guidance.

We have a limited supply of lateral flow tests available at the reception of both schools, which are open until the 22 December, but they are also freely available to collect from local pharmacies. However**, most families find it easiest to order online for delivery to your home here:**

Order coronavirus (COVID-19) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

For the first weeks of term, until we review the data at the January exeat, we ask parents of all pupils **from Year 3 upwards to lateral flow test** their children on **Wednesday and Sunday evenings** and report to the school using the link above. **Pupils from Year 5** should wear face coverings in close indoor environments in both schools in these first weeks, unless exempt. Any younger pupils who wish to wear a mask are of course very welcome to do so.

For those families who have not used a Lateral Flow Test, you may find this link to the Gov.uk website, showing you how to conduct a test, useful: How to Conduct a Lateral Flow Test

The aim of these increased precautions is to get through the post-Christmas wave unscathed. By the first exeat we will review the data and our approach with the particular aim of making school life as normal as possible. We are hopeful that the inconvenience caused by these measures will lead to much lower cases of pupils contracting Covid from each other and therefore reducing the inconvenience to parents overall.

With best wishes,

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cc staff; pupils