

FAQ

WHEN DO THESE NEW ARRANGEMENTS START AND HOW LONG WILL THEY LAST?

The crucial thing is to have at least two suitable lateral flow tests completed and reported to the school before the start of term, so Sunday 2 January 2022 is the first key date.

The intention of the policy is to get better data and a more certain start to the term so that we can avoid disruption and, hopefully, roll back some of the requirements if conditions improve.

WHAT OTHER MEASURES ARE YOU TAKING?

We continue to focus on regular cleaning and disinfecting, ventilation, and have a visitor policy that asks for a negative lateral flow test. We continue to encourage regular hand washing and provide sanitiser, both of which can significantly reduce spread.

Where possible we want to start the term with a business-as-usual approach to the many school activities that the children enjoy, which is why we are so keen to use the preventative measures outlined to maintain that possibility

WHY ARE YOU MAKING THESE CHANGES?

1. Our experience of this term shows that Covid is spreading much more among the unvaccinated younger pupils and, in our connected community, this creates disruption to their learning and their siblings, family, friends and staff across our two schools.
2. In anticipation of government guidance coming in at the last minute for the new term, we want parents to be prepared and to have a robust system in place.
3. To make an excellent start to 2022 in the hope that we can roll back restrictions more confidently and reduce the problems created for families in the medium to longer term.

HOW DO I MANAGE THE LATERAL FLOW TESTING?

Please see this link for helpful advice:

[How to conduct a Lateral Flow Test](#)

Some children may be apprehensive the first time they do one of these tests but please be reassured that they are simple to perform and far less invasive than the original throat and nasal swabs.



ARE LATERAL FLOW TESTS SUITABLE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN?

Yes, the tests ordered online from the NHS or in pharmacies do not require a throat swab and are suitable for children 5+. Both school receptions have this type of test available for younger pupils too.

DO I NEED TO REPORT THE RESULTS REGULARLY TO THE NHS IN ADDITION TO THE SCHOOL?

Ideally yes, using the following link:

Link for: [NHS reporting](#)

But, most crucial for us in managing the data and the situation, is the reporting to the schools of your child's results.



Link for [Eastbourne College pupils](#)



Link for [St Andrew's pupils](#)



WHAT SYMPTOMS SHOULD ALERT ME TO KEEP MY CHILD AT HOME?

A new continuous cough, high temperature, and a loss of taste/smell are the classic Covid symptoms. But please do take notice of any signs of your child being under the weather, for example a scratchy throat, muscle ache or extreme tiredness, and take the opportunity to test for Covid before bringing them back to school.

ARE THESE MEASURES LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OR GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES?

Our proposed measures go a bit further than the current (as of Dec 16 2021) guidelines for the reasons above. We have learned to expect muddled messages, U-turns and vacillation with the government's approach to schools but this is our best attempt to give you advance information and likely to be consistent with legal requirements.

WHAT IF WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE TESTING PROPOSALS?

We have been extremely grateful that so many parents support our policies and anticipate that all parents will help in the collective effort to manage the Covid situation coherently across our two schools. If you wish to withdraw your child from the testing we propose, please write to the Headmaster of the College, Tom Lawson, stating your reason. Ultimately your decision is final so all such withdrawals will be automatically acknowledged in the affirmative and there will be no attempt to argue or interfere with your opinions.

WHAT IF MY CHILD IS UNABLE TO WEAR A MASK OR I AM UNWILLING TO ALLOW THIS?

There are already children who have reasons for mask exemption which we are able to manage easily. Please tell your child's tutor if you have not already made such arrangements.

WHAT ARE THE ARRANGEMENTS REQUIRED FOR PUPILS RETURNING FROM OVERSEAS TRAVEL?

Boarding pupils will continue to receive updated information. Essentially the news is quite good: there are currently no 'red list' countries listed by the UK government. Consequently, returning travellers only need a PCR test within two days of arrival and to self-isolate until a negative result from that. We suggest using the fast service at the airport for this test. Boarding pupils are able to isolate in school but we recommend the use of guardians for the brief period of isolation required which can be completed prior to the start of term.

WHY IS THIS END-OF-TERM COMMUNICATION SO SERIOUS AND HUMOURLESS?

Elf and safety... Happy Christmas!