



4 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you so much for your support with the Lateral Flow Testing taking place today and this week. It is much appreciated and will allow us to determine how we need to scale our mitigations. Thank you also for checking student uniform and equipment prior to the return to lessons; it is important for many reasons that this consistent approach and environment gives students the security and clear standard they need.

All students prior to coming in this week for their LFD testing have a Firefly task set by me which encourages them to check they are ready for the start of term. Those students who have not yet come in for their onsite testing should follow their normal timetable and access their education remotely on Firefly which is being set by their teachers.

I will be providing in this communication details of any further Covid-19 mitigations that we are putting in place for the period 4 January to 26 January 2022 pending the government review. We will keep the situation under daily review, adjust and inform you as necessary. A summary of these measures is included in the attached infographic. Please do contact us with any specific questions we have not included or that are personal to your circumstances.

Face Coverings

In line with government guidance face coverings will be worn by students in all indoor spaces, including classrooms. This is short term only until the 26 January when it will be reviewed as part of the Plan B evaluation.

Staff do not need to wear a mask if speaking when teaching as long as they remain 2m distance from students, although they may choose to.

Assemblies and Shared Spaces

Regrettably we will revert to virtual assemblies for the duration of this period of time to reduce the number of occasions where larger numbers congregate. Shared spaces such as the LRC and Library can continue to be used with mitigations (ventilation, face coverings, limited numbers) in place.

Testing

Weekly: As you will be aware, we have asked that secondary school students undertake one on-site test, on return in January. This will help boost testing participation and



Distinguished
School



reduce transmission after a period of social mixing during the holidays. Students are then strongly encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#). Any positive results should be reported to the College at C19attendance@heathfieldcc.co.uk.

Testing to release: Individuals who have a positive PCR test may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to College from day 8. If you choose to do this please be very clear with the College about the days of self-isolation you have completed and the outcome of test results.

Daily Testing for Close Contacts: Close Contacts of a positive Covid-19 case do not need to self-isolate if they are under 18½ or double vaccinated and are prepared to daily LFD test; if they are over 18½, and not double vaccinated, they must self-isolate for 10 days. For students who are a household member of a positive Covid case we would draw parent attention to the importance of face coverings; hand sanitising; limiting social contact.

Visitors to Site

We will be reducing the number of visitors to site as part of our general mitigations, however, parents will still be able to come to College as normal although we would ask that prior to coming to the College for an appointment or sustained period of time you take an LFD test before arrival (this would not be necessary if simply dropping off or picking up from outside reception/student services).

Ventilation

As previously we will be increasing ventilation in classrooms and inside spaces through open windows and doors to allow for air circulation. The use of CO2 monitors means this does not have to be the case all the time but it does mean that for the time being coats will be permitted in classrooms until they have warmed up.

Trips

Due to the logistical and financial commitments involved we will be following government and insurance guidance closely. Where possible we will seek to maintain planned activities but will inform you as soon as possible of any changes to arrangements or cancellations.

Remote Education:

We will want to keep face to face learning in place as much as possible for as many as possible. Where students have to self-isolate due to a positive test result remote learning and access to their normal lessons is available as indicated in our Remote Learning Protocols.

The start to term testing is useful to allow us to determine the level of absence in both staff and students for the start of term and then we will adjust from that benchmark. If we reach a stage where teaching all year groups and/or classes is unsustainable due to staff absence then we will make decisions based on timely risk assessments of year groups, available space and appropriate supply staff regarding collapsed classes or remote learning.

Finally, thank you again for all your support in enabling us to take a sensible and pragmatic start to term. We fully accept that not everyone feels the same way about the current situation nationally and you may make different choices in your own home, but we hugely appreciate the collective support for the measures in College that enable us to ensure the consistent and high-quality experience for our students that they need and deserve.

As always, we are here to help if needed. If you are at all concerned about your son/daughter and their return to College this term then please do not hesitate to contact your pastoral team.

Aside from these measures, we have a busy term ahead with plenty for students to focus on and enjoy. We look forward to updating you on these and the students continued success as the term progresses.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C Barlow', written in black ink.

MS C BARLOW
Headteacher