



15<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## Updated COVID-19 and Testing and the Return to School

### January Testing: QEGS Sports Hall Testing Centre

Having reviewed our testing plans, to meet the current Government and Public Health expectations, we will be adjusting the return to school dates for some Year Groups. **However, we will still be providing remote lessons during this period of adjustment.**

We are very aware returning to school after the Christmas break can be both a nervous and exciting time for students. Therefore, we made sure testing occurs on a day when children will only need to stay for their test and can then go home.

All students will attend school for their test at least one day before their formal return date. These timings are set out in the table below. Children must arrive as near to the beginning of their session as possible.

Onsite Lateral Flow Testing Sessions		
Year	Day	Session Time
Year 7	<b>Tuesday</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	12.00 - 13.00
Year 8	<b>Tuesday</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	10.30 - 11.30
Year 9	<b>Tuesday</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	09.00 - 10.00
Year 10	<b>Monday</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	13.30 – 14.30
Year 11	<b>Monday</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	12.00 – 13.00
Year 12	<b>Monday</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	10.30 – 11.30
Year 13	<b>Monday</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	09.00 – 10.00

### On arrival for their test

Students will not be required to wear uniform when they come in for their test. They should be dropped off at the bus bay and walk up to the Sports Hall. Here they will take a lateral flow test and then return to the bus bay. Staff will be on hand to guide and support. We will then process the test and inform parents in the event of a positive result. If you have not heard from school within two hours, please assume the test result was negative.

### Returning to school

Years 11 and 13 will return to onsite teaching from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Some vocational students will also be onsite over Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January due to their having external assessments and examinations. Mrs Morgan will explain this to affected students. To enable us to conclude our COVID-19 testing all other students will be taught remotely over this time.

It should also be noted Year 11 work experience remains in place for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January. In addition, Year 13 will be attending lessons to revise and prepare them for their Mock exams.

<b>Revised Return to On-Site Lessons. Please note there will be on-line lessons from the start of Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>	
Year 7	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Year 8	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Year 9	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Year 10	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Year 11	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Year 12	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Year 13	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2022

### **Updated COVID-19 Advice and Information**

We have received fresh guidance from the Department for Education regarding advice for close contacts and follow-up vaccinations for our students aged 12 to 15 years old. We are grateful to the Department for their further guidance on advice for close contacts and the forewarning of further vaccinations in school.

### **Advice for Close Contacts**

From today, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 to 18 years and 6 months identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, are strongly advised to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts of COVID-19 will help make education and childcare settings safer and help keep children and young people in face-to-face education.

### **Vaccination of 12 – 15 year olds**

Young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

NHS England have now confirmed that, as with first doses, healthy school-aged children aged 12 to 15 will be able to receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their school next term, as well as having the option to receive the vaccine out of school, such as through vaccination centres. These offers will run in parallel.

Vaccination for this group will continue to be deployed primarily by the school age immunisation service (SAIS). In school vaccination will begin from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and all schools should have received at least one visit before February half-term. We expect most schools to require multiple visits so vaccines can be administered to all consenting pupils. SAIS teams will be in touch with schools from the start of next term to discuss what is best for their circumstances. At present we await more information, and as soon as we are provided with this, we will inform you.

Over the Christmas holidays, parents can already book first vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the NHS booking system. Second doses will be available for eligible children by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Further information on vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds is available on the NHS website.

Do contact me if I can be of any assistance, and thank you for the part you have all played in helping to keep our school and community safe over the last few months.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Bawden  
**Assistant Headteacher**