

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



7th January 2022

Return to school information for QEGS

Dear students, parents and carers

We hope that you have had a safe, restful and enjoyable break.

Following two meetings with my team yesterday and today, we feel it is important to share some information ahead of the start of term next week.

Testing

We ask all members of staff and students to test today and on Sunday before returning to school. Parents should inform the absence line in the usual way.

If anyone receives a positive LFT result they must seek a confirmatory PCR test. However, it is likely that from Tuesday 11th January confirmatory PCR tests will no longer be required if someone tests positive via a LFT. We understand from the Department for Education that this will be a temporary measure. Therefore anyone with a positive LFT should isolate immediately.

Isolating

Anyone experiencing a high temperature, new and continuous cough, or a loss or change to the senses of smell or taste should isolate and take a test. Currently the advice is for this to be a PCR, though we are aware this may change and if so, we will update our own guidance.

It is important to isolate if you test positive with a LFT. Most people will no longer need to isolate for 10 days. Instead, they will isolate for 7 days, as long as they produce negative LFT results on both days 6 and 7. There are exceptions to this, and it is important to follow current NHS advice at all times. In all circumstances you should continue to isolate if you have a high temperature regardless of negative LFT results.

You may also need to self-isolate if you live with someone who has coronavirus, or you are a close contact. However, there are many people who are exempt from this, such as if you are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months, and further advice can be gained from the NHS helpline on 119.

Some may have travelled over the Christmas break. If so the rules around isolation are changing. If you arrive back in the country after 04.00 today [Friday 7th January] you no longer need to quarantine on arrival or take a PCR before departure for England. However, you will still need to take a PCR on return to the UK. From 04.00 on Sunday, if you are fully vaccinated or are a child under the age of 17, you may choose to take a LFT on return to the country instead of a PCR. However, the LFT must still be booked in before you travel back to the UK.

Face-coverings

The wearing of face-coverings is now expected in all internal areas. Please remember to bring your face-covering/s with you. Should you not have access to an appropriate face-covering we will continue to provide them as before. These will be available from duty staff, student services, Progress Leaders and others.

We have also received further advice from the Department for Education regarding the use of face-coverings in examinations. This advice will mean we continue to ask everyone to wear face-coverings on entry to exams and on departure. Wearing face-coverings during the examination is a matter of personal choice.

If anyone believes they should be exempt from wearing a face-covering we expect the person to wear a sunflower lanyard. These are available via Progress Leaders if students, and Matthew Bawden and Natalie Jones.

School Outbreak Planning

This is up-to-date and we are currently operating at Stage Two. This means the school has more than two cases. As a result, there are daily reviews and we endeavour to provide as much notice as possible of any and all adaptations needed to maintain everyone's health and safety.

Vaccination

We now have a date for the second dose of COVID-19 vaccination. This will be the day when the NHS come into school. There will be a similar opt-in process to last time. Naturally parents may wish to arrange vaccinations for themselves once 12 weeks have elapsed.

For further information or support please email Matthew Bawden on bawden@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Remote Learning on Monday 10th Jan and Tuesday 11th Jan

All staff are expected to teach students remotely whilst the testing process is underway. All students should be taught remotely from form time on Monday 10th January with Y11 and 13 returning on site on Tuesday 11th January 2022. The online school day will start at 08.50am with Form Time and normal lessons P1-5 will be in place, taught by usual teaching staff or cover via departmental provision.

All year groups will be on site on Wednesday 12th January 2022.

Form time will be delivered remotely by the Progress Leader for each year group on Monday 10th January. Tuesday 11th January will be on site form time for Y11 and 13 and remote led by Progress Leader for Y7, 8, 9, 10. Y12 and 13 will have a joint assembly led by the sixth form team.

Please refer to the letter sent on December 15th 2021 regarding year group testing times and dates of return <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/12/Updated-COVID-19-and-Testing-and-the-Return-to-School.pdf>

Where a lesson clashes with the testing slot for that year group, a shorter task may be set via Teams for students to complete.

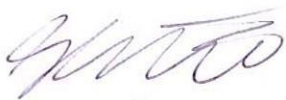
Year 11 work experience remains in place for Thursday 13th January and Friday 14th January.

If students have any password issues, they should contact enquiries@qegs.email and our ICT networking team will respond as quickly as possible.

We are very much looking forward to seeing our students and staff back onsite next week. Please remind your children to be safe, meet our expectations of good conduct, to be positive and to do their bit to limit any further spread of Covid and any subsequent student or staff absence.

See you next week!

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher