



Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

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'Excellence for All'

16th December 2021

Start of Term Arrangements – January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I would like to reiterate our sincere thanks to you all for your continued support during these challenging times. Additionally I would like to thank those of you who have informed us, via the online consent form circulated, that you have consented for your child to participate in the next round of on-site testing.

As you are aware, the government has directed all secondary schools to carry out on-site Covid-19 testing of all consenting students prior to their return to lessons in January. In the context of the recent variant concerns, this is to help identify positive asymptomatic cases of Covid-19, to help reduce potential transmission within the community and to support continuity of education for all. Following this **one on-site test**, students will then return to twice weekly-home testing.

As the testing logistics for so many students involves a large number of staff, the DfE has allowed schools to stagger the return of all students across the first week to accommodate. However, to minimise disruption as far as possible, we have planned to **test all consenting students on Tuesday 4th January, so that all students can return to lessons on Wednesday 5th January.**

The overview of the start of term arrangements is below:

Date	Arrangements
Tuesday 4th January 2022	<p>Students in all Year groups will receive remote 'live lessons' via TEAMS, at the usual lesson times.</p> <p>Students in all Year groups, who have given new consent, are to come on-site at their allocated time for a COVID-19 test.</p> <p>All students to return straight home after their test. Parent/Carers will be notified of the test result later that day.</p> <p><i>The times allocated for consenting students will be sent out on Friday 17th December.</i></p>
Wednesday 5th January 2022	All students in all year groups are to return to school at the normal time.

Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request



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As outlined above, on Tuesday 4th January, subject staff will be delivering lessons via TEAMS **from 9.15am**. All students will continue to follow their normal timetable at the normal lesson times. Students will be able to ‘chat’ to the teacher in real time and will be able to ask any questions they may have about the lesson as it progresses. Students should make any notes on paper to bring back into school.

Student’s attendance will be monitored. It is an expectation that all students ‘attend’ the remote lessons. Class teachers will be able to see who is ‘on-line’ and will be taking class registers, as they would if the student were in school. ***We ask that your child joins the start of the next lesson as soon as they return back home after their on-site test.*** If your child is poorly, you should ring the academy in the normal way to alert us that they will not be ‘active’ in the remote lesson. It is essential that students adhere to the daily routines of a normal school day and remotely attend all sessions on time.

For those who have not consented to come on-site for a test, we respectfully ask that they complete one LFD test on the **evening of Tuesday 4th January** or on the **morning of Wednesday 5th January** before they return to school. We have distributed sufficient home-testing kits this week to all to support this. Alternatively, you can order test kits for your whole household via <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or pick up one from your nearest collection point using <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>.

Please log the results to NHS Test and Trace via <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and also report your child's LFD result to school via this link [here](#)

I am incredibly lucky to have a community of parents/carers who have continued to support the school throughout this pandemic and help enforce important messages about masks and hygiene.

Thank you for your understanding and support concerning this. I look forward to welcoming the whole school back on Wednesday 5th January and I do wish you all a very happy Christmas and safe New Year.

Yours faithfully



J Crowe
Principal