



**KING EDWARD VI
NORTHFIELD
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

Educational excellence for our City

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CP/Letter to parents – update 141221

14th December 2021

Dear Parent/carers

Guidance has been changing nationally over the last few days and the guidance for schools has been updated. To keep you as informed as we are please read the following carefully.

Testing - please self-test regularly

It is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all education and childcare workforce and all students of secondary age and above. In particular, please test before going to crowded events or visiting vulnerable people. Staff and students are asked to self-test on either the evening before they return to school in January or first thing that morning, as well as taking part in the on-site testing. School will be issuing 7-day test kits and they are available free of charge from local pharmacies.

Close contact - 7 days of self-testing instead of isolation will allow students and staff to continue to be in school.

From today all adults who are fully vaccinated and all children aged 5 - 18 years and 6 months, who are close contacts of someone with COVID-19 (including the omicron variant) can take a lateral flow test each day for 7 days instead of self-isolating and report outcomes to [Online Reporting System](#) and school. Track and tracing is no longer carried out by school and therefore it is crucial that you do register your child's test results through the online reporting system.

This daily testing will help protect education settings by reducing transmission whilst maintaining face-to-face education. If a LFT is positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Vaccination - please consider carefully

The new Omicron COVID-19 variant is spreading fast. Anyone who is unvaccinated or who hasn't had their booster is at even greater risk from COVID-19 and more serious illness. Vaccines are the best way we can protect ourselves and help keep children and young people in face-to-face education. People aged 18 years and over, and those aged 16 years and over who are at risk (including health and social care workers) will be offered a booster dose of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. Please do encourage those in your settings to take up the booster dose.

Headteacher: Mr Neil Jones



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16- and 17-year olds can get two doses of the COVID vaccine. They can book an appointment through the national booking service and walk in centres are available.

Parents of children aged 12-15 that have not yet had their first vaccine can book their child's first vaccination slot over the winter break via the [national booking system](#). Information on vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds can be found in the [COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 guidance](#). [Further information on the coronavirus booster vaccination](#) and booking a vaccination can be found on [NHS.UK](#).

Other measures - Face mask, wash hands/sanitise, good hygiene

As a school, we will continue to remind students about wearing face masks, washing their hands and general good hygiene, and we would appreciate your support with discussing these issues with your child. Sanitising gel and wipes are available in every classroom, and rooms are well ventilated, please could you also continue to reinforce this with your child. The correct wearing of face masks in communal areas is a national recommendation and many of our students do, and they are welcome to use them in lessons as well. **"Please help us manage our resources in school by providing your child with a clean mask from home each day and ensure it is in place properly, it would be appreciated as a key measure to reduce infection risk."**

I know we will all do all we can to stay safe at this time and we therefore appreciate your support with the measures and guidance above.

Yours sincerely

C M Prescod (Mrs)
Strategic Development Lead/Covid Co-ordinator