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| To all parents, carers and studentsBefore the holidays I wrote to you regarding our returning to college in January 2022. (See Covid-19 Update Dec 2021).We are continuing with this return to college plan which will allow us to have all students back in college by Thursday 6th January.**Start of term – January 2022**The current Government guidance is that we should be testing students, who have consent to be tested, before they start back in January 2022. The following has been arranged:

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| **Year** | **Testing Date** | **Testing Time** | **Start Back at College** |
| 7 | Tuesday 4 January | 8.00am – 12.30pm | Wednesday 5 January at 8.40am |
| 11 | Tuesday 4 January | 1.00pm – 3.00pm | Wednesday 5 January at 8.40am |
| 8 | Wednesday 5 January  | 9.30am – 2.30pm | Thursday 6 January at 8.40am |
| 9 | Wednesday 5 January  | 9.30am – 2.30pm | Thursday 6 January at 8.40am |
| 10 | Wednesday 5 January  | 9.30am – 2.30pm | Thursday 6 January at 8.40am |

If you have consented for your child to be tested in college, they should arrive between the times above. If you have not consented but would now like your child to be tested, consent forms are available on our college website. Your child will not have to wear uniform to come for the test but they MUST have a face covering (unless exempt). They should arrive via the college decking area. Once they have had the test, they will be able to leave. Parents/carers are responsible for getting their child to college and back home safely. We will contact you ONLY if your child’s test comes back positive and this will be done within one hour of your child taking the test in college. We ask that a second test will be carried out 3-5 days later at home using the home testing kits given to students.**In summary:****• All year 11 will start at 8.40am on Wednesday 5 January 2022.****• All year 7 will start at 8.40am on Wednesday 5 January 2022.****• All years 8, 9 and 10 will start at 8.40am on Thursday 6 January 2022.** Remote learning will be available on Tuesday 4 January for all year groups and on Wednesday 5 January for years 8, 9 and 10. The remote learning will follow your child’s normal timetabled lessons; however, break will be from 10.30am-11.10am.For those students who will be coming into college for a Covid-19 test, there will not be an expectation to catch up with any part of a remote learning session missed. We do encourage all students to engage with the remote learning.The main change for students on their return to college will be the wearing of face masks both in communal areas and in classrooms. Please could you ensure your child has a face mask on their return to college as we only have a very small supply to give out to students who misplace their masks. Please read the information below regarding updated information that has been released from the government today, Sunday 2nd January. Today, the Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi, has [written](https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/01/02/an-open-letter-from-education-secretary-nadhim-zahawi-to-education-and-childcare-leaders/?utm_source=2%20January%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) to all education and childcare leaders to provide an update on the return to education and childcare following the holiday period. Testing for students after the holiday periodAs all settings are aware, we have asked that secondary school students undertake one on-site test, on return in January. This will help boost testing participation and reduce transmission after a period of social mixing during the holidays. Students should then be strongly encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result?utm_source=2%20January%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) and to their educational setting. Staff and students in all education and childcare settings, should take one self-test at home either the evening or morning before they return in January, then continue to test twice weekly at home. Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site through ATS or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals 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. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these 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 your education setting from day 8.Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

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Updated guidance on the use of face coverings in education settingsFrom today, Sunday 2 January, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings. We are updating our guidance to reflect this. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed. Please could I remind all parents and carers that all updated information will be placed on the college website as this is the most efficient way to communicate, I ask that you check this on a regular basisMay I take this opportunity to thank you for all your on-going supportSally Cryer |

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