



Back to School in January

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year to you and your family, I hope you have had a great Christmas break.

I just wanted to send you a quick reminder of our arrangements for returning to school which were sent out before Christmas as well as some updates.

Lateral Flow Testing

Friday 7th January will be a COVID Testing day. Students are invited to attend school at a set time on that day (see table below), to take their LFD COVID test under the supervision of our staff. This is a very important measure designed to keep our staff and students safe, so we would urge as many students to attend as possible. Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing.

Please note that there will be no school buses operating on Friday 7th January and it will up to parents/carers to arrange transportation if required. The testing process should take no longer than **10 minutes** and students *will return home once complete*.

The COVID consent form is now live again on the school website and we would ask you to complete these if you haven't already done so. https://www.medenschool.co.uk/forms/testing_consent.php

Please can students enter the school site using the entry nearest to Hetts Lane and the testing will take place in the Eastwood Block, a member of staff will be there to direct students. Face coverings need to be worn on arrival to the school site, unless exempt.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11/12/13
9.00-9.45am	10.00-10.45am	11.00-11.45am	12.15-1.00pm	1.15-2.15pm

Returning to School

Lessons begin as normal on Monday 10th January at 8:50am. School Bus services will operate as normal from this date.

Face Coverings

In line with government guidance all students, unless exempt, are required to wear a face covering in lessons and in communal areas. Please can you ensure that your child has a face covering when they arrive on Monday. We have a limited amount of face coverings in school, and these are used for students who lose or break their face coverings throughout the day. Staff will remind students to wear their face covering when entering the school site to help ensure a safe environment. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, they will need an identification sticker on their ID card to help avoid confusion, these will be given out to students by their tutor on the first day back.



Home Testing

To ensure that we minimise the risk of Covid19 spreading within the Meden School community we ask all our students and staff to continue to do an LFD test twice a week. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of completing, twice weekly, LFD testing at home, with the kits provided by school. Should you require further kits please do not hesitate to ask. We recommend the tests are completed at home on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

Self-Isolation

Since Wednesday 22nd 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. 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 school from day 7.

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-19

Students who have been 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.

Personal Hygiene

We will continue to re-enforce the use of hand sanitisers in classrooms, encouraging students to sanitise on entry to all classrooms. Classrooms are cleaned at regular intervals. Students and staff should continue to adhere to the “catch it, kill it, bin it” process.

Thank you for your continued support through these uncertain times and I look forward to working with you in 2022 and beyond.

Kind regards

Mr J Smith