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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
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Our Ref: MQ/SM

13 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I wrote to you last week providing you with the outline plan for the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing of students when they return to school after Christmas. We will be testing students on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th January 2022.

I apologise for the length of this letter however it is important that all parents read this in detail. Organising the LFD testing process in line with the extensive guidance for schools and ensuring some form of normality for students in school, presents a very significant logistical challenge. To help schools, the Government has permitted a phased start to the Spring term.

In brief students will be phased back into school – please see the table below.

Date	Year Groups	Notes
Tuesday 4 th January	Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Years 7, 8 and 9 remote learning from home• Years 11 and Sixth form – lessons after LFT• Year 10 afternoon testing - return home after test
Wednesday 5 th January	Years 7,8 and 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form normal lessons• Years 7 and 8 normal lessons after test• Years 9 afternoon testing – remain in school until the end of the day
Thursday 6 th January	All year groups	Normal Lessons

Attached to this letter, and on the school website via this [link](#) you will find the specific detail indicating when your child has to be in school for their LFD test. It is important that they keep to this appointment. Unfortunately, due to the complexity of this process it is not possible to move appointment times.

I appreciate asking parents to arrange for students to be dropped off at school during the day and picked up is a significant ask. We all have a part to play in the safe opening of school. Again, can I thank you for your patience and forbearance. The successful completion of this process is a big step in ensuring we can continue to provide safe quality education and will also play our part in the battle against COVID-19 particularly with the circulation of the Omicron variant.

If your child has the symptoms of COVID-19, please do not send them into school to receive a LFD test. You must follow the Government guidance and get a PCR test. Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Do I have to give permission for my child to have a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test in school?

In preparation for the testing we need to update our parental permission form. Whilst the testing is voluntary, we would encourage all students to take it. Please follow this link:

[**LFD \(Lateral Flow Device\) Test Consent Form \(December 2021\)**](#)

This form needs to be completed even if you have submitted one before and even if you do not give consent.

Where does my child go when they come in-to school to be tested?

Students must be dropped off on the drive. Please refer to the maps and information on the website.

What to do if you have previously had a positive PCR Test?

Over the course of the pandemic, we have kept records of all students where we have been notified of a positive PCR test. If your child has had a positive test in the last 90 days then the guidance confirms they do not need to undertake Lateral Flow Device tests. They should therefore return to school on the day that their year group are being tested. If you have not already advised us your child has previously tested positive. We need their name, Tutor Group and date of the positive PCR test please. Please email this to covidtest@oaklandscatholicschool.org

My child is in a vulnerable category and has already received the vaccine do they still need a test?

The guidance states that they should still follow the LFD test procedure it is clear that the vaccine does not provide complete immunity; there are cases of individuals that have been double jabbed who unfortunately have contracted COVID-19.

What happens if the Lateral Flow Device Test is positive?

If the test returns a positive result we will contact you. Your child will then have to take a PCR test which you will have to book, ([**Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)**](#)) you will then be responsible for notifying test and trace if the PCR test is positive. You will then be advised of the isolation period.

What happens if the test is negative?

We will not notify parents of negative result. As I am sure you appreciate, making contact with up to 600 families a day would be an impossible undertaking.

What if I have not given consent for the LFD Test?

If you have not given permission for the test, your child needs to come into school at the same time as the rest of the tutor group is scheduled for their test. Your child will sit in the hall and wait with the rest of the tutor group until they are dismissed to return to lessons.

Will the school bus service run?

Yes, a normal school bus service will operate on 4th and 5th January.

How can I play my part in stopping COVID-19 spreading?

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19. Do:

- Get vaccinated if you haven't already done so and are eligible. Vaccination is the best defence against COVID-19 causing anyone to become seriously unwell. If anyone who is eligible in your family or home have not yet been vaccinated, then they should arrange vaccination as soon as possible. This could also help you avoid having to self-isolate in the future. Information on how to arrange a vaccination can be found via: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues straight in the bin and wash your hands.
- Open windows/doors regularly to ventilate your home
- Be vigilant for COVID-19 symptoms and self-isolate when you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been advised to by Test and Protect.

Thank you once again for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher