



# THE ARNEWOOD SCHOOL

*Working Together - Shaping Tomorrow*

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3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Re: Start of Spring Term 2022 – COVID Update**

I hope you have enjoyed a relaxing Christmas break. We look forward to seeing students return to school for the Spring Term. This letter contains updated guidance for the start of the new term in order to reduce the risk of infection from COVID-19.

### Face Masks in Classrooms

As has been widely reported, the Secretary of State for Education has issued guidance concerning the wearing of face masks in secondary school classrooms. This decision will be reviewed by the government on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 but in the meantime please can you ensure your son/daughter is ready for school with their own face mask to wear at all times indoors. Children who are medically exempt from wearing a face mask are asked to helpfully identify themselves with their badge or sunflower lanyard.

In addition, please can you also make sure your son/daughter has an adequate supply of hand sanitiser and their own school equipment to avoid sharing and reduce potential transmission.

### Close Contact Testing

You will be aware that new guidance has been issued in relation to isolation of COVID-19 close contacts. This states people 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 school/workplace as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

### Post Test Result Self-Isolation

Since Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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/workplace from day 8.

### Contingency Planning for School Closure

It is difficult to anticipate the impact of the Omicron COVID-19 variant as we come out of Christmas and New Year with greater mixing of households. Department for Education guidance issued to school and college leaders recognises that the high rates of COVID-19 may cause difficulties with the

availability of staff. Our shared priority is to keep education settings open and children and young people continuing face-to-face education. Where workforce issues arise, we will continue to minimise the impact, keeping students on-site to the best of our ability. However, should it become necessary for some year groups to be educated from home you will be notified. As a broad strategy we shall maintain on-site teaching for final year examination classes, vulnerable and key worker children. Other year groups will be provided with home learning, a week at a time on rotation, beginning with Year 7.

### In School Testing Schedule

As already advised, we have been directed to test students for COVID-19 on their return to school for the start of the Spring Term. This will help boost testing participation and reduce transmission after a period of social mixing during the holidays. **Students are strongly encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home.**

The schedule for testing is outlined below. We shall notify parents/carers and students of positive test results so that individuals can self-isolate.

### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (INSET Day) - Year 10, Year 11 and Sixth Form Testing**

<b>9.00 a.m.</b> 10SSS, 10PSN, 10SJR, & 10AGR	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> 11GTM, 11EDG, & 11DSS		
<b>10.00 am</b> 10JBE, 10HSN, 10LEN, & 10RSN	<b>11.45 a.m.</b> 11PCE, 11JPY, & 11CAN	<b>1.30 p.m.</b> All tutor groups	<b>2.15 p.m.</b> All tutor groups

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 Testing**

On site school lessons for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 only. Online learning for Y7, Y8 and Y9.

<b>9.00 a.m.</b> 7CTT, 7PGT, & 7DHS	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> 8SGN (was 7KML), 8LML, & 8VNN	<b>1.30 p.m.</b> 9EFL, 9JMH, 9KHN
<b>10.00 a.m.</b> 7REN, 7KGN, & 7VRE	<b>11.45 a.m.</b> 8TFS, 8MCT, & 8JBT	<b>2.15 p.m.</b> 9JMR, 9JPN, 9JKN

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Lessons for all year groups in school unless a student is self-isolating.

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With very best wishes for a Happy 2022.

Yours faithfully

N. Pressnell  
**Headteacher**