



15 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to say thank you to all our students and families for the commitment and resilience shown over the Autumn term. We hope that you stay safe and well over the holiday period and enjoy a well-deserved break. Please find below arrangements for return in January and information about on-site asymptomatic COVID testing.

The Department for Education are asking all schools to implement **one** on-site asymptomatic COVID test for students on return in January, **followed by a home test 3-4 days after this.** Asymptomatic testing is playing a vital role in protective measures, and it is key in breaking chains of transmission and keeping schools open. We encourage all members of our school community to take part.

If you have:	Then
Previously provided consent to on-site testing	There is no need to do this again. Students should turn up at the time detailed below.
Previously not provided consent and you wish to take part in the on-site testing programme	Please complete the consent form by scanning in the QR code or click on the consent form link .



To enable us to deliver the testing programme safely and quickly, we will need to stagger the return to school for students. We appreciate that parents/carers and students may be frustrated by this, but we must follow government guidance and, by staggering the return of the year groups as outlined below, we are able to complete the on-site testing as required in just one day, minimising disruption to learning. Please see the schedule below.

What are the arrangements for return to school in January?

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Year 11

Arrive at school for testing in uniform at **8.30am** if consent has been given (Sports Hall entrance). For those students for whom consent has not been given, please arrive at 9.30am, going to period 1 lesson to register. Normal lessons from period 2.

Year 10





Arrive at school for testing in uniform at **9.45am** if consent has been given (Sports Hall entrance). For those students for whom consent has not been given, please arrive at 10.30am, going to period 2 lesson to register. Normal lessons from period 3.

Year 9

Arrive at school for testing in uniform at **11.00am** if consent has been given (Sports Hall entrance). For those students for whom consent has not been given, please arrive at 11.45pm, going to period 3 lesson to register. Normal lessons from period 4 after lunch.

Year 8

Arrive at school for testing (no uniform necessary) at **12.30pm** if consent has been given (Sports Hall entrance). **Students can return home once they have completed their test and received permission to leave (please ensure that your child can get home safely).** For those students for whom consent has not been given, please remain at home and study. When not at school on this day, students should log into [MathsWatch](#) to complete revision and practice questions. In addition, they can use Seneca Learning to explore and revise key knowledge from their other subjects ([Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2 \(senecalearning.com\)](#)) and spend time reading.

Year 7

Arrive at school for testing (no uniform necessary) at **1.45pm** if consent has been given (Sports Hall entrance). **Students can return home once they have completed their test and received permission to leave (please ensure that your child can get home safely).** For those students for whom consent has not been given, please remain at home and study. When not at school on this day, students should log into [MathsWatch](#) to complete revision and practice questions. In addition, they can use Seneca Learning to explore and revise key knowledge from their other subjects ([Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2 \(senecalearning.com\)](#)) and spend time reading.

Please note that all students need to arrive at school via the front gate – the rear gate will not be accessible on this day.

What if my child is on Free School Meals and is in Year 7 or 8 so will not get a lunch in school?

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals and they are in Year 7 or 8, you can collect a packed lunch from Reception (or the Sports Hall if they are coming into school for testing) from 10.00am onwards.

What happens if a student gets a positive result?

If a student receives a positive result when tested, you will be informed. They should isolate and take a confirmatory PCR test and continue to isolate if the result is positive. If the PCR test is negative then the student can return to school, providing that they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19.





When should a student not attend school?

Students should not come to school if they display any COVID-19 symptoms, which include:

- A new continuous cough - this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- A high temperature
- A loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell.

Other preventative measures at school continue to be:

- Good hand hygiene - washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water regularly. Using hand sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Wearing a face covering in communal areas in school (not classrooms), on dedicated school transport and public transport
- Ventilation of classrooms
- Putting used tissues in the bin immediately and sanitising hands afterwards

Home testing & updated guidance from the Department for Education

We continue to encourage all families to test at home twice per week on Sunday and Wednesday evenings (we have plenty of testing kits available in the school office and students are welcome to collect these when they need them). If your child takes part in the on-site testing on the 4th of January, they need to follow this up with a test at home 3-4 days later and report the results to school ([Harrogate High School - Students - Reporting a COVID-19 LFD Home Test Result to School \(office.com\)](#)) and the NHS ([Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)).

Home testing remains an excellent way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and is effective in identifying asymptomatic cases. If you wish to take part in home testing and have not yet consented to this, please use the following link [Harrogate High School - COVID LFD Home Testing Opt-In Form for Students \(office.com\)](#).

We have received updated guidance from the Department for Education that, from Tuesday 14th December, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 to 18 years and 6 months identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, are strongly advised to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

I am confident that these measures will support our school and wider community to stay safe.

Best wishes to you, your family, and friends over the holiday period.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Greenwood
Head of School

