



# THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill  
Purley  
Surrey  
CR8 3YP

3rd January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I thought that it would be helpful to remind you about the lateral flow testing taking place at school tomorrow. Parental consent is required for all students under 16 years, students over 16 years can self-consent. Even if a student has tested positive for Covid within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in testing on-site or to test at home once they have completed the isolation period for their prior infection.

Please see the plan below:

Arrival Time	Year Groups
9.00	Years 7 & 8
10.30	Years 9 & 10
12.00	Year 11
14.00	Years 12 & 13

**If your son has a smart phone, it would be helpful for him to have it with him when attends for testing, to aid the registration process.**

Your son will receive a text notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system to the mobile number given on the consent form. Your son can dress casually tomorrow and will be dismissed after his test.

If your son tests positive using a lateral flow device, he will need to take a PCR which should be taken on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. Parents/carers will be responsible for arranging the PCR Test. During the time while waiting for the PCR result via text, students will need to self-isolate.

The testing programme is for people with no symptoms. If your son develops symptoms at any time he must immediately self-isolate, and book a PCR test.

**Wednesday is an INSET Day so students will be returning for lessons on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

You may have seen in the news yesterday that schools received updated guidance from the Department for Education relating to Covid-19. The main change is that, to quote the guidance, *'From today, Sunday 2 January, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated'*.

So, we are returning to a situation that existed during parts of the last academic year when everyone is recommended to wear face coverings inside the school buildings unless medically exempt. Please make sure that your son has a face covering and a spare one, when he returns to school this week. The guidance states that this is a temporary measure which will be reviewed on Wednesday 26th January.

There is a recognition by the Government that the spring term will prove extremely challenging for schools. The biggest problem which schools are likely to face will relate to staff absence. Schools will do their very best to minimise the impact on students but there is a possibility that remote learning will take place again.

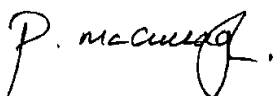
This is an anxious time, particularly for Year 11 and Year 13 students and it is understood that there will be a decision made in February on whether or not public examinations will take place this year.

We will continue to provide you with updates each week as the situation develops. We are obviously preparing for disruption due to how transmissible the Omicron virus is, but we will, as always, do our very best to keep our school community safe.

In the meantime, I will leave you with the Pope's intention for January:

*'We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.'*

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. McCullagh'.

P E McCullagh  
Headteacher