

10 December 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

The letter today is focussed on the measures we are putting in place to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. As part of the Government's Plan B COVID-19 response: Autumn and Winter Plan, schools have been asked to provide on-site testing for pupils on their return in January 2022. Testing in school helps to boost participation and should help to reduce transmission after a period of mixing over the holidays.

Please refer to the tables below for more information of the testing arrangements.

## Tuesday 4 January 2022

	Appointments for Testing	Return to school	Entrance
<b>Year 11 students who do not consent to being tested are to arrive at 8:30am and go straight to period 1 lesson.</b>			
<b>Year 11 Surname starts: A-M</b>	8:30 – 09:15	30 minutes after testing	Enter by Music Fire Doors
<b>Year 11 Surname starts: N-Z</b>	09:15 – 10:00	30 minutes after testing	Enter by Music Fire Doors
<b>Year 10 students who do not consent to being tested are to arrive at 10:45am and go straight to period 3 lesson.</b>			
<b>Year 10 Surname starts A-M</b>	10:00 – 11:00	30 minutes after testing	Enter by Music Fire Doors
<b>Year 10 Surname starts N-Z</b>	11:00 – 12:00	30 minutes after testing	Enter by Music Fire Doors

<b>Year 7 students will be tested and are then free to leave. They will start school on 5 January using normal entrance (Music fire doors). Students who do not consent to being tested will start on 5 January.</b>			
<b>Year 7 Surnames start A-M</b>	12:30 – 13:45	5 January at 8.30am	Enter by Music fire doors
<b>Year 7 Surnames start N-Z</b>	13:45 – 15:00	5 January at 8.30am	Enter by Music fire doors

## Wednesday 5 January 2022

	Appointments for Testing	Return to school	Entrance
<b>Year 8 students who do not consent to being tested are to arrive at 8:30am and go straight to their line up.</b>			
<b>Year 8 Surname starts: A-M</b>	8:30 – 10:00	30 minutes after testing	Enter by Music Fire Doors
<b>Year 8 Surname starts: N-Z</b>	10:00 – 11:30	30 minutes after testing	Enter by Music Fire Doors
<b>Year 9 students will be tested and are then free to leave. They will start school on 6 January using normal entrance and line up. Students who do not consent to being tested just start on 6 January.</b>			
<b>Year 9 Surname starts A-M</b>	12:00 – 13:30	6 January at 8.30am	Enter by Music Fire Doors
<b>Year 9 Surname starts N-Z</b>	13:30 – 15:00	6 January at 8.30am	Enter by Music Fire Doors

### Attendance

The Government are clear that school attendance remains mandatory and all the usual rules continue to apply. Enabling children and young people to attend Birches Head Academy continues to be our priority.

### Face coverings

The latest guidance on face coverings states that they should be worn by students in year 7 and above and staff and visitors in communal areas, unless exempt. Pupils and students in year 7 and above in these settings must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport.

Please can you ensure that your child returns to school with a face covering every day. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, they can request a green badge from their form tutor that must be displayed on their blazer. Please can you write a note in your child's planner to request this.

### Testing

Regular testing using a lateral flow test is strong strongly advised for staff and students twice each week. We recommend Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Please inform us of any positive result.

If you need to visit the school for any reason please take a lateral flow test before coming on site.

### Change to Isolation rules

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, are required to self-isolate and asked to book a PCR test. The NHS Track and Trace teams will alert you to this.

It remains a challenging time and I would like to thank you for your support throughout the term . I would also like to pay tribute to all the staff in our Academy who have worked so hard to maintain our standards and expectations. I am immensely proud of the commitment and dedication of both staff and students at Birches Head Academy.

Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format if you have any questions. You can contact the office by email on [info@bircheshead.org.uk](mailto:info@bircheshead.org.uk).

Yours Sincerely

Ms K Dixon  
Principal

