



## Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth

Leeds LS18 5RF

Tel: 0113 226 5454

Fax: 0113 226 5401

Email: [info@horsforthschool.org](mailto:info@horsforthschool.org)

Website: [www.horsforthschool.org](http://www.horsforthschool.org)

Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well and that you had a wonderful Christmas.

I am writing with a few reminders but most crucially with an update on wearing masks in classrooms which has been widely reported in the media.

### **Masks in Classrooms**

The Government now recommends that all students wear masks in classrooms. As a result it will be compulsory for **students to wear masks in all inside areas of the school** unless they are eating or drinking in a permitted area or exempt.

I know this is disappointing for many and wearing a mask is not comfortable but this is a crucial measure in reducing the spread of COVID and preventing further lost learning.

Students do not need to wear a mask outdoors but they must wear them in the changing rooms for PE.

The Government has said this is a short term measure until (and including) Wednesday 26th January. It will be reviewed by the Government then and could be removed or continued. If it were removed we would still require students to wear masks in corridors and communal areas.

Please ensure your son/daughter brings two face coverings to school, plain and without logos. A washable face covering reduces the impact on the environment.

### **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing before return to school in January 2022**

All students will be expected to log on and learn remotely on Tuesday 4th and for Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 Wednesday 5th. The remote learning will contain live teaching as per our policy (unless a teacher is ill).

You will already have received an email informing you of the student's appointment on either Tuesday 4th or Wednesday 5th January 2022. A copy of the letter for each year group can be found in the *Letters Home* section on the school website see links below please look for **Later Flow Appointments**:

Year 7: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-7/>

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

- Year 8: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-8/>  
 Year 9: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-9/>  
 Year 10: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-10/>  
 Year 11: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-11/>  
 Sixth Form: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/sixthform/letters-home-sixth-form/>

The lessons that students are expected to attend remotely are below (the yellow filled testing periods are when the Year group is being tested and there will be no lessons then):

**Tuesday 4th January**

YEAR	Form	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
7	Remote	Remote 8.50 – 9.20	Testing	Testing	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson
8	Remote	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson
9	Remote	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson
10	Remote	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson
11	Remote	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote 11.10 - 11.40	Testing	Remote Lesson
12	Remote	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson
13	Remote	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Testing

**Wednesday 5th January**

YEAR	Form	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
7	<b>IN SCHOOL</b>					
8	Testing	Testing	Remote 10.20 – 10.50	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson
9	Remote	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Testing	Testing
10	Remote	Remote 8.50 – 9.20	Testing	Testing	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson
11	<b>IN SCHOOL</b>					
12	Remote	Remote Lesson	Remote Lesson	Testing	Testing	Remote Lesson
13	<b>IN SCHOOL</b>					

## **Lateral Flow Tests (Home Testing)**

Thank you so much for your support in continuing to perform lateral flow tests at home.

The link to reporting results to the NHS is here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. The link to report results to us is here: <https://forms.gle/RKzCqrFhzDS4CFK87> (**please also call or email the school if you test positive**).

### **If I test positive, how long do I isolate for?**

There has been an update to the guidance over the holiday about on-site testing for students who have tested positive within the last 90 days. **If you tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, you are strongly encouraged to take part in the testing in school once you have completed your isolation period. This is because you can catch the Omicron variant straight after the Delta variant.**

Since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who test positive with a PCR test has been reduced to 7 days. You can now take a lateral flow test on day 6 and day 7 of your self-isolation period. If you receive two negative test results, you 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.

### **When do I return to school if my test is negative?**

Students in Years 7, 11 and 13 return to school on Wednesday 5th.

Students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 return to school on Thursday 6th.

### **Expectations during a remote lesson**

We know the vast majority of our students will perform very well with the demands of online learning. We know that etiquette and behavior will be impeccable. However we do need to ensure that there is structure and formality to these lessons. So, as students are not in school with their planners, we will operate a simple behaviour management system for these 2 days. Rather than using a verbal warning and 2 comments ahead of phase 4 class removal, staff will give 3 verbal reminders to modify behaviour which will be classed as 3 strikes. If your child has 3 strikes in any one lesson they will receive a Detention on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

If a student's behaviour is totally unacceptable, the pastoral team will be in touch with you and usual school sanctions will apply on their return.

### **Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19**

From Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, all adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, who are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

In a change to the guidance, adults and students are expected to take part in the daily LFD testing even if they have had COVID in the last 90 days. This is due to the fact it could be possible to catch Omicron directly after the Delta variant.

### **Vaccinations**

NHS England has now confirmed that children aged 12 to 15 will be able to receive their **second COVID-19 vaccination** in their school this term, as well as having the option to receive the vaccine out of school, such as through vaccination centres. These offers will run in parallel.

These visits are not likely to begin until February to allow for adequate planning time. In the meantime, 12-15 year olds can receive both their first and second dose (once eligible) from Leeds COVID Vaccination Centre (next to Elland Road LUFC site) via both walk-in and bookable appointments on the [national booking system](#).

### **Staff Absence**

We have had increasing numbers of staff having to isolate as case rates rise and it is increasingly difficult to source supply staff to cover this absence. This will be a challenge going forward and it may be the case we will need to educate some Year groups remotely for a short period of time if we cannot safely staff in person lessons.

I will update you as soon as I can if this is the case but absence can increase dramatically overnight so please bear with us.

We are all looking forward to seeing our wonderful students again and whilst the COVID case rate is concerning the school is in an excellent position to weather the current situation. I hope you have had a wonderful, restful break and I wish you a Happy New Year.

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*