

December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the emergence of the "Omicron" variant of Covid-19, and the Prime Minister's recent briefings, we have received guidance from the Department for Education that all secondary schools should **test their pupils once on-site on return in January**. After this test on return, pupils should continue to test in line with government guidelines.

These tests must be carried out before students return to lessons, which will mean a change to the planned return after the Christmas break as outlined in the table below.

By utilising Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to complete testing for all students, we are able to minimise disruption to learning by ensuring a synchronised start on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January. In addition, we can reassure our College community that WVC is a safe environment to study and work upon returning from our Christmas break.

Please find below arrangements for the start of term in January:

<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Staff Training Day
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Covid-19 Testing Day – Students tested and return home
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Key Year 11 Students only to return for Intervention. <i>Students will be contacted by Mr Harrison by 15<sup>th</sup> December if this applies to them</i>
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	School returns as normal for all students (Week A)

### Student Testing

- Students arriving on site will make their way to the **Humanities block** through the side gate by the tennis courts. There they will be registered and given instructions on how to administer their test.
- The test will take 20-30 minutes in duration.
- The specific timings of **bus pick-ups** are still being finalised and will be sent out before the end of term and also uploaded to the College website.
- Students who arrive in a **taxi** will be scheduled to arrive for their test in the **afternoon**.
- If your child does not travel on a bus (e.g. walks to school or is dropped off) please ensure that they access the College between **1.00pm – 2.00pm**.
- Following the test, students will go straight home via the bus that they arrived on.
- Students will only be able to be tested if the **parental consent form** has been completed. If consent has previously been given since January 2020 then this still remains valid. However, if you wish to withdraw your child's consent then you will need to email [office@wvc.tela.org.uk](mailto:office@wvc.tela.org.uk)
- Students **will not** need to wear school uniform for this test but should ensure they are wearing warm clothing.

- In the event that a student tests positive while still at College, they will not be allowed to return home on the school bus and will be isolated on site. We will contact the student's parents/carers who will need to collect the student from school as soon as practically possible.
- Students will not be expected to complete virtual learning on this day.

**Note:** If a student has had a positive PCR test within the last 90 days, then the LFD and PCR test may remain positive even if they are not infectious, therefore it is recommended that they should not restart asymptomatic testing unless they have new symptoms. Students should start testing again at the end of 90 days after the date of their positive test.

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

- All students will be required to attend school as usual from this date onwards.
- The buses will be fully operational at normal times
- Full uniform must be worn.
- Students will be expected to wear masks in communal areas such as corridors unless they are exempt. They are not expected to wear masks outside or in the classroom.

If you have any queries regarding the student testing on return to College, please contact Mr Harrison [nharrison@wvc.tmet.org.uk](mailto:nharrison@wvc.tmet.org.uk)

Regards



Miss Owen  
Head of School