



4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Return to School for All Students – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

We are looking forward to welcoming all students back to school for normal timetabled lessons tomorrow, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. However, you may already be aware that the government guidance for schools has recently been updated and so some of the requirements for students and families have changed. This letter contains important information about these changes. Please read each section carefully so that you can support our efforts to keep the school community as safe as possible.

#### **Asymptomatic (LFD) Testing**

The Government now advises that all students should take part in twice-weekly testing, even if they have tested positive within the past 90 days (unless currently self-isolating). Therefore, regardless of any previous positive test results for COVID-19, please ensure that your child undertakes twice-weekly testing at home, including today / before returning to school tomorrow (unless he/she attended an on-site test today). All students will be issued with a replenishment test kit later this week.

#### **If your child tests positive using a LFD test**

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 using a Lateral Flow Device Test, your child must not attend school. You should follow government guidance, and should arrange for your child to have a follow-up PCR [test](#) as soon as possible.

#### **Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19**

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive negative test results on **both** of these days 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 the student does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 7.

#### **Close Contact 7-day testing**

From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their school as normal, unless they develop symptoms or have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

#### **Face Coverings**

The government has introduced new guidance regarding the use of face coverings by staff and students in schools from the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The previous guidance recommended that face coverings should be worn by students, staff and adult visitors when moving around the premises,

outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas. This requirement will continue, but the government guidance now states that from 4<sup>th</sup> January, face coverings should also be worn in classrooms in secondary schools. As a result, we have updated our expectations re the use of face coverings at Prince Henry's. Please read the attached document, which gives full details of when students should wear a face covering. In particular, please ensure that your child has a re-usable face covering and at least one spare face covering with them at all times.

### **Visiting School**

The updated government guidance strongly recommends that visitors to school (including parents and carers) should take a Lateral Flow Device test the morning of their visit. We have amended our Risk Assessment to include this mitigation measure and we ask parents and carers to support us with this if they have a reason to visit the school. For parents or carers of Year 9 students, this means that we would like you to take a Lateral Flow Device test during the day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January if you plan to attend the Year 9 Options Evening event on Thursday evening. Obviously, if you test positive then you should not come into school and you should follow government guidance about self-isolation.

### **Remote Learning Provision for students with COVID-19**

If your child is absent from school due to a positive Covid test, remote learning will be provided so that, if they are well enough, they can keep up with learning during their absence. Obviously, if students are ill, then there is no expectation that they should complete the work set. However, some students may be asymptomatic or may recover before the end of the isolation period and therefore will be able to access remote learning to keep up during this time.

Students can expect the following:

- Remote learning will be set by teachers within 48 hours of school receiving notice of a positive PCR test.
- Remote learning will be provided through Teams and will either take the form of assignments labelled REMOTE which students can work through independently **or** an invitation to join the lesson virtually.\*
- Assignments will be set within 24 hours of the lesson taking place but cannot be guaranteed to match the exact timings of the timetable a student would follow in school.

\*Please note that where students have been invited to join the 'live' lesson, the focus of the teacher will largely be on the students in the classroom and the session will not have been structured specifically to be delivered remotely. Students are invited so that they can listen to the teacher input and ensure they understand the tasks set. However, the lesson is unlikely to be interactive in the way that was possible when the whole class was accessing the lesson through Teams during lockdown.

### **School Transport**

You may already be aware from media reporting that there has been a shortage of school bus drivers in some parts of the city. So far this has not affected our area, but with the number of COVID-19 cases on the rise the situation may worsen in all areas. School transport providers will do their best to minimise any cancellations, but it is best to be prepared by ensuring that your child(ren) know what to do should a problem occur. Please consider how your child(ren) would get to school (or home) in the event that their bus service fails to operate. Twitter @metrogenm provides up to date information on service changes, late running or cancellations.

Please be assured that at Prince Henry's we will endeavour to maintain our rich educational provision as far as possible, whilst balancing the need to minimise risk.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support as we navigate the latest changes and challenges.

Yours faithfully



**Ms Janet Sheriff**  
**Executive Headteacher**