

16 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family are well. With regards to Covid risk management, when we return to school in January, I am writing to inform you that we are putting in the following measures in place for all students returning to school in January:

### Wednesday 5 January

- Students were given a pack of 7 LFT tests to bring home last week. Can you please ensure you save one test to be used on the morning of Wednesday 5 January?
- Please take a digital photograph of this result, include your child's Full Name, Year and Form Group and email to [DPO@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:DPO@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)
- Also please remember to scan the QR code to register your test.
- If you do not want your child to take the LFT test, please email the school at the same address [DPO@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:DPO@birchwoodhigh.org.uk) and inform us in writing.

### Thursday 6 January

- We will check every child's email return to verify compliancy with completing their LFT on Wednesday 5 January. This is a Government requirement.
- Any child returning to school on Thursday who has not submitted a test result or email saying they are not complying on the Wednesday will be asked to take an LFT test when they arrive at school.

### Masks

- From January, the school will no longer receive free face masks from the Government.
- Can we please ask all parents to ensure they provide a clean facemask for their child each day?
- With effect from Thursday 6 January if the school provides your child with a face mask they will be charged 50p each using ParentPay.
- The school will pay for masks for all FSM students.

### Medically Exempt

- Students who are medically exempt from wearing face masks can download an exemption card which should be printed off and carried with them – the URL to the DfE link is [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/903454/Exemption from face covering card to print.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/903454/Exemption_from_face_covering_card_to_print.pdf)

In terms of supporting the school, can you please continue to test your child for Covid-19 on Mondays and Thursdays?

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We will continue to review the situation on a daily basis and we are hopeful that we can return to optional face mask wearing in the near future, as we acknowledge that they impede communication in lessons and can be uncomfortable for some students.

We are waiting on details of a second vaccination for all 12-15 year olds in the New Year and will advise you of dates once received.

This morning we have been informed that the Yr9 DTP/Men ACWY vaccinations organised for the 12 January will be rescheduled to a later date to be confirmed.

Thank you for your co-operation and support during these challenging times. May I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

*Chris Ingate*

Dr C Ingate  
Principal