



15 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: COVID-19 School Update (containing information for all age groups)

As we approach the Christmas holiday, I would like to take the chance to thank you for your continuing support of your child's school. Over the last twenty months, Trinity Trust's prime directive has been to continue to provide a smooth and meaningful education within a safe environment. Of course, this has come with its challenges, and the emergence of the Omicron variant will invariably mean more changes to how we operate as a more detailed picture and guidelines emerge.

At this point I would like to draw your attention to the following important developments:

- **We are currently planning the return to school in the New Year and, as part of that return, we are required to do an in-school test of (consenting) secondary-aged students.** This will be one lateral flow device (LFD) test, as your child arrives at school, to limit the spread of COVID-19 as per the government guidance. Any student testing positive will be sent home and encouraged to seek a PCR confirmatory test, as is required in the government guidelines at present.
- **Following this one initial test in school, we strongly encourage secondary-aged students to continue with the home testing and reporting, as this is one key action that can reduce the spread of COVID-19.** There is likely to be further government guidance issued soon, which we will monitor and respond to as necessary. We will also issue further instructions for the single initial test in due course.
- **From 14th December 2021, all children and young people aged over 5, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, are strongly advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.** If an LFD test result is positive, then they will need to self-isolate and get a confirmatory PCR test. LFD tests are available from school for home testing.

Note: This is an important point as it applies to primary-aged pupils for the first time.

- **Students who are aged 12 to 15, and who have already had one vaccination, will be able to access their second vaccination (12 weeks after the first). This will be done either via an NHS vaccination centre or, from the 10th January 2022 at the earliest, in school.** These two options will run parallel to each other and further details will be published shortly.

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If there are any questions regarding the points above, please do feel free to contact your child's school. I will finish by once again thanking you and your families for all you have done to maintain the safest of environments, both for yourselves and your wider community.

I hope you and your families enjoy a happy and healthy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Gosling
CEO – Trinity MAT

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