

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, may I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Please be aware that all students are due to return on Wednesday 5th January at the normal times. Where a pupil or student did not take part in the testing on site, we encourage them to complete a test at home before returning to school. Doing so will help reduce transmission after the holidays.

Government Updates

Over recent weeks there have been a number of updates to government guidance which we have attempted to summarise below. The information is correct at the time of writing but is subject to change from local or national government:

Face coverings

The government are now recommending face coverings are **worn in classrooms as well as in indoor communal areas such as corridors. Please can we also remind you that those using school transport need to continue to wear face coverings.** This applies to pupils/students, staff and adult visitors. Face coverings should fit securely around the face to cover the nose and mouth. Please ensure all pupils/students come to school with a suitable face covering. Given the increased use it is essential that individuals have a suitable supply and may wish to consider bringing a spare to wear if theirs becomes damp or dirty during the day.

When wearing or removing a face covering the government advice is:

- Wash or sanitise hands thoroughly before putting on or removing a face covering
- Only handle the straps, ties or clips and avoid touching the part in contact with the mouth and nose
- Avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession
- Change the face covering if it becomes damp - Once removed store reusable face coverings in a plastic bag until it can be washed [Single-use face coverings should be disposed of in household waste and do not recycle]

- **Visitors**

In line with government guidance we strongly encourage all visitors (including parents) to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before entering the school premises. Visitors are also expected to wear a face covering unless exempt. Visitors should only be on site by prior appointment.

COVID cases

Pupils/students should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. **They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result, or are**

required to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19. If a pupil/student develops COVID-19 symptoms whilst in school, however mild, they should be sent home.

Pupils/students with a positive lateral flow device test result should self-isolate. They will need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19 and continue to self-isolate whilst awaiting the result. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual does not have COVID-19 symptoms.

If a pupil/student tests positive via a lateral flow device test or PCR then they must self-isolate for 10 full days. They can stop self-isolating after 7 days if they do a rapid lateral flow test on days 6 and 7 and:

- **both tests are negative**
- **they did both tests at least 24 hours apart**
- **they do not have a high temperature**

If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

Any pupil/student who is unable to take a lateral flow device tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

Please ensure all student absences are reported promptly to the academy via the usual methods. Please also record your child's test results on TestRegister.

We are required to keep a log of all COVID-19 cases within our school community. To help us to do this please ensure you include the following details in your absence email or telephone call:

- last date the student was in school
- symptom start date (if any) and a brief description of any symptoms
- test date and type, result date and result of test
- expected return to school date - please give us the day 10 date and then notify us after day 7 if they will be returning early.

Close contacts

Students (aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months) who are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 are not legally required to stay at home and self-isolate. **However, they should take a lateral flow device test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal unless they have a positive result or develop symptoms.**

Those who have tested positive within the past 90 days are now advised to undertake lateral flow testing due to the potential of reinfection posed by the omicron variant.



Brayton
Academy

Principal: Al Moon
Brayton Academy
Doncaster Road
Selby, North Yorkshire
YO8 9QS
T: 01757 707731
E: info@braytonacademy.org.uk

Lateral Flow Device Tests

Regular testing is an important way of identifying cases and reducing transmission. All pupils/students are encouraged to continue to test twice weekly (or daily if identified as a close contact as explained above). Kits will continue to be issued in form time.

Other controls

In addition to all the above we continue to have in place a series of ongoing measures:

- We have three separate lunches and breaks to minimise contact between year groups.
- Pupils/students should wash or sanitise their hands on arrival at every lesson.
- Doors and windows remain open as far as possible to aid ventilation.
- Whilst coats cannot be worn in school pupils/students may wish to consider the layers they wear.
- Enhanced cleaning remains in place, particularly of contact points around school.

Thank you to all our pupils/students and parents for your ongoing efforts and support as we continue to navigate the challenges posed by COVID-19, and take the necessary steps to reduce transmission and minimise disruption to education.

Yours faithfully,

Al Moon
Principal