



3 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, can I wish you a happy new year; I hope you have been able to have a restful and healthy festive period.

I wanted to write before we return to school as no doubt you would have heard lots of information of the news about schools and the recent Department for Education announcements. Below I have tried to summarise these for you and also share a reminder about our phased return due to the Lateral Flow testing. The timetable for which is below:

Monday 3rd January – Bank Holiday (students at home)

Tuesday 4th January – Inset Day (students at home apart from specific students notified individually)

	Wednesday 5th January	Thursday 6th January	Friday 7th January
Year 7	Home MS Teams Live Lessons	Test in school then home Work on Class Charts	Return to school
Year 8	Home MS Teams Live Lessons	Home MS Teams Live Lessons	Test in school then home Work on Class Charts
Year 9	Home MS Teams Live Lessons	Home MS Teams Live Lessons	Test in school then home Work on Class Charts
Year 10	Home MS Teams Live Lessons	Test in school then home Work on Class Charts	Return to school
Year 11	Test in school then home Work on Class Charts	Return to school	Return to school
Post-16	Test in school then home Work on Class Charts	Return to school	Return to school

When students attend school for their test, they **do not** have to wear uniform. However, uniform must be worn once they return for learning.

Specific Times for each Tutor Group

[Year 7 Letter and Testing Time](#)

[Year 8 Letter and Testing Time](#)

[Year 9 Letter and Testing Time](#)

[Year 10 Letter and Testing Time](#)

[Year 11 Letter and Testing Time](#)

[Post 16 Letter and Testing Time](#)

Please note that students taking external exams in January will be invited into school for their test on Tuesday 4th January. These specific students have external exams the following week and we will be



providing revision classes for them on Wednesday 5th January. It is important that these students are able to maximise their time in school before their exam. Parents of affected students have been notified individually.

Home Learning

As there will be some time when students are at home, we will be providing 'live lessons' on Microsoft Teams on days when they are not required to come in for a test. On days when students are coming into school for a test then returning home, work will be provided on Class Charts for the students to complete. There may be a few exceptions to the 'live lessons' if teachers are teaching a revision class in school. In this circumstance, work will be placed on Class Charts to complete.

Accessing 'live lessons' using Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams is an online platform that can act as a virtual classroom, with the capacity to host video calls, so teachers can still connect with students face-to-face. Details about how to access Microsoft Teams can be found in the guidance sheet which follows this letter, and the instructional video which can be found here: [How do I access Microsoft Teams?](#)

On days when they are having 'live lessons' on Microsoft Teams, all lessons on your child's timetable will be conducted this way. There will be no morning tutor time registration. For every lesson, your child will have a scheduled video link, which will be shared with them in the appropriate class 'Team' on the Microsoft Teams app and also sent via their Office 365 school email account.

We trust that your child will make the most of this opportunity and give every lesson their absolute best effort. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at aevers@jogschool.org

Face Coverings

You may well have heard on the news that the Government have asked all students from Year 7 and above to wear facemasks in classrooms and inside communal areas. You may know that this is something we have already had in place before the Christmas holiday, so in line with the guidance we will continue with it. This advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26th January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

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

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances.

Individuals may now take LFT tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results 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 your child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.



Anyone who is unable to take LFT tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFT test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. If an LFT is positive or any symptoms develop a confirmatory PCR test should be taken and isolation if the test is positive.

Contingency Planning

Over the course of the pandemic we have always tried to plan for all eventualities. With the number of current infections extremely high across the UK, it is highly likely that we are going to experience staff absence. At this point I would like to remind you that my belief is that the best place for students is in school, receiving face to face lessons in person. Whilst this term is likely to throw up many challenges, we will continue to do all we can to keep school open for all year groups. Whilst home learning is an option, it will be a last resort and only ever implemented if we have no other option available. In these circumstances we would always prioritise the older exam year groups to be in school and do all we can to limit the amount of time other individual year groups may spend at home. That said, there are a whole range of strategies that will take place before this, including the use of existing non-specialist staff, the use of senior staff teaching groups, the use of supply staff, joining certain classes together or even amending timetables.

Finally

As the Greek philosopher said, 'There is nothing permanent except change'. It seems that at the start of 2022 there is a lot of change and uncertainty but please be assured that we will continue to do all we can to support our fabulous JOG community.

Best wishes,

Paul Skipp
Headteacher