



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will know, towards the end of last week there were a number of national announcements, we also have some of our own. I have tried to summarise these for you below.

Laptops

Before Christmas we loaned laptops to students that do not have devices of their own to use at home. As part of our contingency plans we would suggest you hold on to these devices, should students be required to use them this term. We will then aim to collect them back in, either at the end of this term, or towards the end of the academic year. However, please ensure they are looked after and cared for!

Anna Freud Parent and Teen Support Sessions

Anna Freud, The National Centre for Children and Families are running a series of parent and carer support groups and webinars via their Schools Support Services (SSS) Team. These are completely free and run independently from the school. The information on the different sessions are attached in documents.

The “Connecting parents and carers” groups aim to provide a reflective space to think about the challenges of parenting adolescents, as well as a space for you as parents/carers to attend to your own wellbeing which we think is just as important. The groups are not webinars, and they are also not therapy, but rather aim to support parental emotional wellbeing and the connection between parents/carers and their teens. They are interactive groups with a mixture of teaching and discussion to structure the reflective space. They are also offering one group specifically for Dads and male carers. Spaces are limited for these sessions so please refer to attached information to book a place if interested.

[SSS Webinars for Parents and Carers - Jan 2022.pdf](#)

[SSS Parent and Carer groups - Jan 2022.pdf](#)

[SSS Dads and male carers group - Jan 2022.pdf](#)

Vaccine Update

Over the weekend we were informed that Spencer’s Sport and Social Club Vaccination centre in Melksham (Melksham, SN12 8AG) is now offering appointments for 12-15-year olds for their CV19 vaccine. Appointments are available on NHS to book. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) Appointments can be made for 12-15-year olds to have their second vaccine dose.

12-15-year olds who are clinically extremely vulnerable or in a household with those who are Immuno-compromised are eligible for their second vaccine 8 weeks after the first vaccine dose.

Clarification on the use of face coverings in examinations and assessments

Following the temporary reintroduction of face coverings in classrooms, the [public health guidance to support exams](#) was updated on Sunday 2 January. This guidance sets out that Government would not ordinarily expect candidates and invigilators to wear face coverings during exams and assessments, but



only on arrival and departure. Therefore, as we have done previously, students will have a choice on whether to wear a mask.

Changes to PCR test requirements for people who receive a positive lateral flow test

The UK Health Security Agency has confirmed that as from Tuesday 11th January, people who receive a positive lateral flow test result and are symptom-free will no longer be required to take a follow up PCR test to begin their isolation period. Under the new guidance, people who test positive on lateral flow test will still need to isolate for at least seven days, and will need to register their positive lateral flow results, but will no longer need to take a PCR test.

More information can be found at [Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow test results - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/confirmatory-pcr-tests-to-be-temporarily-suspended-for-positive-lateral-flow-test-results).

Self-isolation guidance

The self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) recently changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after seven days, following two negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. This guidance also applies to children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting

In summary:

- You must self-isolate as soon as COVID-19 symptoms develop, or when you receive a positive test result if you do not have symptoms.
- Two negative lateral flow tests are required to end self-isolation: the first to be taken no earlier than day six, followed by a second test result 24 hours later. If both of those tests are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you can stop self-isolating immediately.
- If the day six test is positive, further tests can be taken on subsequent days but you must receive two negative tests, 24 hours apart, in order to end self-isolation.
- If ending self-isolation after day six due to negative lateral flow test results on consecutive days then please limit contact with others wherever possible until after the formal 10-day isolation period would have finished.

The full advice can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

As always, if you have any further queries or questions, please do us know.

With thanks,

Paul Skipp
Headteacher