



2nd January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Return to School in January

I hope that you have been able to enjoy a pleasant Christmas break and can look forward to a Happy New Year.

Please note this letter follows the government's announcement today regarding further updates to Covid regulations.

As you are probably aware, over the past few weeks rates of the COVID omicron variant have continued to increase significantly across the country, particularly in London and our local community. At this stage we aim to operate lessons in schools as normally and as far as we can, however, if we get to a point where a large number of staff are unable to come into school, it may become necessary to assign groups of students to remote learning for specific days. Whilst we will do our utmost to avoid this, I suspect that this situation could become unavoidable.

Summary of control measures

- We expect social distancing to be maintained between students and staff.
- Students must wear face coverings, unless they are exempt, in classrooms, moving around indoors and when in communal areas
- Students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitise their hands.
- **Students should not attend school if they are unwell.**

It is critical for us to restrict the **spread of illness in general** amongst the school community, we aim to reduce the transmission of colds, as well as coronavirus.

It is imperative that everyone continues to remain cautious. So, if your child is **unwell for any reason** they should not come to school until they have fully recovered. Typically, this might be for **5 to 7 days**. Any child that displays any of the main symptoms of coronavirus, must stay at home and seek a PCR test.

We are aware that many children that test positive present very mild symptoms, often similar to those of a cold.



Testing

As required, we are offering lateral flow tests to all students before they resume school. Students should report to the **Sports Hall** at the time specified in school uniform and after their test they will return home. The schedule below indicates the dates for their test. Please note that if your child tests positive you will be notified, and we ask that you then seek a PCR test.

We have been asked by the NHS to remind parents and students of the vital need to complete tests throughout the term. Home test kits have been issued to students for this and replacements will be provided during coming months. The UK Health Security Agency recommend that all students complete 2 lateral flow tests each week.

Students should come to school for a lateral flow test appointment as follows:

	Year 7	Year 11	Year 8		Year 9	Year 10
	Wednesday 5th January	Wednesday 5th January	Wednesday 5th January		Thursday 6th January	Thursday 6th January
8.30am						
9.00am	Staff	ADE	BSK		EBE	ABN
9.30am		EEM	CMI		GGL	ALE
10.00am		HSN	EHO		JOH	BKY
10.30am						
11.00am	AHN	JPY	GGE		MAM	CJS
11.30am	APR	RLE	MLT		MBE	MMY
12.00pm	CHE	SCS	MMN		RAL	PFS
12.30pm						
1.00pm	FWD	THN	PNO		RBI	SCR
1.30pm	MAU	VMY	SWS		TGE	SHS
2.00pm	PDY		ZSN		VFE	VBR
2.30pm	PKG					
3.00pm	PME					
3.30pm	TLE					
4.00pm						

Students will return to full timetabled lessons as follows:

Year	Start time	Start of School lessons
7, 8 and 11	8.40am	Thursday 6 th January
9 and 10	8.40am	Friday 7 th January

Year groups will continue to use specified entrances.

Face coverings

Students aged 11 and above **must wear face coverings in classrooms**, moving around indoors and when in communal areas. Please ensure your child comes to school prepared with their own face covering.

Masks will be required when students are in classrooms and when together in the Main Hall for assemblies and during lunch except when eating or drinking. It is not a requirement to wear face coverings in the playground and during physical lessons such as PE.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. Students whose parents/carers have previously informed the school that their child is exempt, have been issued with a badge that they should wear this every day to indicate this. Replacement badges can be obtained from their Head of Year, our SENCO or from the Learning Mentors.

Remote Education

We will continue to provide high quality remote education for those children who may need to self-isolate because they have tested positive or face other pandemic related challenges.

Your child can continue their learning remotely by accessing subject materials as shown below.

- 1. Google Classroom** – Access to classwork and home learning set in the current week
 - Log into: student.gladesmore.com
 - Select: Google Classroom
 - For home learning: Click the 'To Do' box top left to see home learning tasks that are due
 - For classwork: Select subjects to follow your normal timetable

- 2. My Learning Journey** - Access to classwork in all subjects for the whole academic year
 - Log into: student.gladesmore.com
 - Select: My Learning Journey
 - Select your year group
 - Select subject

- 3. GCSEpod** – Access to revision materials for GCSE subjects
 - student.gladesmore.com
 - GCSEpod
 - Select GCSE subject

Parents Evenings

Parents' evenings will continue online. The Year 9 Parents' Evening is scheduled for 20th January.

Overall

Whilst the start to 2022 is not what we were hoping for, we will endeavour to keep as much of the school operating as safely as we can for the children, to maintain learning and to foster a positive atmosphere.

The control measures will continue to be reviewed together with the UK Health Security Agency throughout the term and we will adhere to the guidance provided by the DfE. **Please be aware that arrangements can change at short notice, and indeed further adjustments seem probable in the next few weeks.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this. And, thank you for your understanding during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

T. Hartney CBE