

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have managed to enjoy the break with your families. Many of you will have seen the recent news regarding updated Covid-19 guidance for schools. Unfortunately, this was only distributed to Headteachers this morning after being released to the media last night. I have now had opportunity to read all the guidance and I have given the key details that parents/carers need to be aware of below. The positive news is that at the minute, we have not been asked to switch to online learning, instead we will continue to deliver face to face teaching. To ensure we can continue to offer face to face teaching onsite, please support the academy by reading the guidance below and explaining its importance to your child.

Masks

The academy reintroduced mask for corridors and communal areas before we finished for the Christmas break. This now extends to all indoor areas at the academy, including classrooms. It will be compulsory for staff and students to wear masks in classrooms and anywhere indoors, unless exempt. This will be reviewed nationally on 26 January 2022.

Testing

It is now encouraged for anyone who has tested positive in the last ninety days to take part in the regular Lateral Flow testing. This is a significant change in the guidance. If your child has tested positive in the last ninety days, and as a result you had not given consent for onsite testing next week, please send your child in at the designated time for their year group / form with their mobile phone. We will then ask your child to ring home to give us verbal consent for the test.

Please refer to my previous correspondence for details of the testing times this week.

Self-isolating (after testing positive for Covid-19)

Self-isolation can now end for staff and students earlier than the ten days. Students can take a lateral flow test on the sixth day of their isolation period, and another lateral flow test the following day. The second lateral flow test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If these tests are both negative, they can return to the academy the next day. They should continue to test on days 8, 9 and 10, in the morning before attending the academy that day. If any of these lateral flow tests are positive, your child should isolate and wait 24 hours before taking the next lateral flow test

For example, if your child has tested positive for Covid-19, they can take a lateral flow test on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation. If both these results are negative, they can return on day 8 to the academy, making sure they test themselves each morning on days 8, 9 and 10. If they were still to be positive on day 6, they would need a negative result from their day 7 and day 8 tests before returning on day 9.



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

Please make the academy aware via the email address Covid19@thesuttonacademy.org.uk if they are returning prior to the ten day isolation period. Also, contact the academy if your child is still receiving a positive lateral flow on days 9 and 10 so I can seek further guidance.

Exams

We have official external exams happening for some students as early as week commencing 10 January 2022. These are due to go ahead as normal.

Staff absence

There is no question that staff absence in schools will be high nationally. Last term, staff absence was far higher than normal at the academy due to Covid-19 and absences associated with the virus. Despite the higher numbers, we were still in a position to run lessons as normal and, unlike many other schools, we managed to avoid switching to online learning. We will do everything we can to ensure we continue delivering face to face education for the students but I may need to contact parents/carers later in the term if this position changes.

Do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further queries and thank you again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal

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