



Dear Parent/Carer

This letter describes the start of the January term. Please note that students will start the year on their **GOLD** week timetable. The government have asked us to again test students at the start of term in January. The arrangements for students starting back at school are therefore quite complicated and are set out below.

Onsite COVID-19 Testing in January 2022

The government has advised us that students should be asked to complete **one** lateral flow device test onsite when we return to school in January 2022 (if parents have given consent). These are very simple to do and staff will be on hand to support students carrying out these tests.

Staggered start for students

The government have also recommended that schools should operate a staggered start in the new year to enable testing to take place:

Year 7

Year 7 are **not** required to attend on Tuesday 4th January. **Year 7 students will begin to return from 10.55am on Wednesday 5th January.** You will receive a text before the end of term with your child's specific return time. Children must attend promptly. Following their arrival in school, Year 7 students will resume their normal timetable and should attend school as normal.

Year 8

Only Year 8 students with consent for testing will be required in school on **Tuesday 4th January.** All other Year 8 students should stay at home on this date. If your child has consent for testing you will receive a text before the end of term with your child's specific test time. Students will return home after their test is complete.

All year 8 students should **remain at home on Wednesday 5th January.**

All Year 8 students should **return to school on Thursday 6th January at 10.45am.** Children must attend promptly. Following their arrival in school, Year 8 students will resume their normal timetable and should attend school as normal.

Year 9

Only Year 9 students with consent for testing will be required in school on **Tuesday 4th January.** All other Year 9 students should stay at home on this date. If your child has consent for testing you will receive a text before the end of term with your child's specific test time. Students will return home after their test is complete.

All year 9 students should **remain at home on Wednesday 5th January.**

All Year 9 students should **return to school on Thursday 6th January at 9.45am.** Children must attend promptly. Following their arrival in school, Year 9 students will resume their normal timetable and should attend school as normal.

Year 10

Only Year 10 students with consent for testing will be required in school on **Tuesday 4th January.** All other Year 10 students should stay at home on this date. If your child has consent for testing you will



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receive a text before the end of term with your child's specific test time. Students will return home after their test is complete.

All year 10 students should **remain at home on Wednesday 5th January**.

All Year 10 students should **return to school on Thursday 6th January at 8.30am**. Children must attend promptly. Following their arrival in school, Year 10 students will resume their normal timetable and should attend school as normal.

Year 11

Year 11 are **not** required to attend on Tuesday 4th January. **Year 11 students will begin to return from 8.40 am on Wednesday 5th January**. You will receive a text before the end of term with your child's specific return time. Children must attend promptly. Following their arrival in school, Year 11 students will resume their normal timetable and should attend school as normal.

This is summarised in the table below.

Summary

Year Group	Test Date for students with consent	Return to school normal timetable
7	Year 7 students should attend from Wednesday 5 th January in full school uniform, whether consent for tests has been given or not. Parents will receive a text with their child's starting time.	
8	Tuesday 4 th January (school uniform not required). Test time as per text.	Thursday 6 th January. School uniform required. All students return at 10.45am.
9	Tuesday 4 th January (school uniform not required). Test time as per text.	Thursday 6 th January. School uniform required. All students return at 9.45am.
10	Tuesday 4 th January (school uniform not required). Test time as per text.	Thursday 6 th January. School uniform required. All students return for 8.30 am.
11	Year 11 students should attend from Wednesday 5 th January in full school uniform, whether consent for tests has been given or not. Parents will receive a text with their child's starting time.	

Students will continue to be given testing kits to use at home. Students have already been issued with enough tests to cover the school holiday period.

Work will be provided on Microsoft Teams for the time that students are at home.

Consent for tests

If you have already provided consent for your child to be tested then you **do not** need to provide it again. Consent can be withdrawn at any point. If you haven't yet given consent but now wish to participate in LFD testing then please complete the consent from online at the link here: <https://tinyurl.com/2eaf6e8p>



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Testing remains optional although **we would strongly encourage you to take part** as it is all part of the national strategy to keep students and staff safe while in school, reduce virus transmission and protect families at home.

What if I haven't given consent for my child to be tested?

Students who have not consented for testing will receive a text message about when to return to school in the new term.

Are there any further precautions that children need to take?

All children should continue to attend school every day and will go to lessons as normal after the staggered start. Students will still have to follow all the normal precautions currently advised by the government such as wearing a mask in communal areas of school, regular handwashing and/or hand sanitising.

Please note that if your child has any symptoms of COVID-19; a persistent cough, fever, loss of taste or smell, they should self-isolate and arrange to get a PCR test. They must not attend school. The Lateral Flow Device test is only for people without symptoms.

If you have queries or further questions, please contact school at admin@BBEC.bdat-academies.org

Kind regards

Mark Colman

Mark Colman
Senior Deputy Headteacher

