

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had an excellent break over the Christmas and New Year period, and are ready for a prosperous and positive 2022. I am writing about changes to the guidance for schools pertaining to COVID-19 as we return to the Academy for the Spring term.

### Face coverings

Prior to the Christmas break, these were worn in communal areas. However, face coverings should now be worn by all students, staff and visitors in all communal areas **and classrooms** at TCA. Initially this will be a three-week period and when guidance is updated, I will contact you with this information. Students should bring a mask or face covering with them, but these are available should they forget. A lanyard will be given to any students who are exempt from wearing a face covering. If this applies to your child, please email with your child's name to [Thornhill.COVID@sharemat.co.uk](mailto:Thornhill.COVID@sharemat.co.uk). If you are visiting us at the Academy, please wear a mask or face covering.

### Twice weekly testing

Twice weekly at-home testing should still be going ahead, and students will be given kits for this as and when they are required. Should they require any additional kits, please do let us know and we will send them home with your child.

### Testing after the Christmas break

During the first week back, those students who have provided consent will be tested for COVID-19. There is **no phased return to lessons and all students should return to the Academy for 8.40am tomorrow morning (Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January)**. A link to provide consent for testing has been issued on numerous occasions and is also attached below. If you have not yet done so, please help us to control the virus at TCA and keep our community safe by opting in to the testing programme. Students should also take a test at home before returning to the Academy.

<https://tinyurl.com/TCAtesting>

### Isolation periods for positive cases

For those who have a positive case of COVID-19, the isolation period has been cut from ten days to seven days. In order to reduce this, a negative lateral flow test must be completed on day six and seven. Should this not be the case, they must still isolate for the full ten day period.



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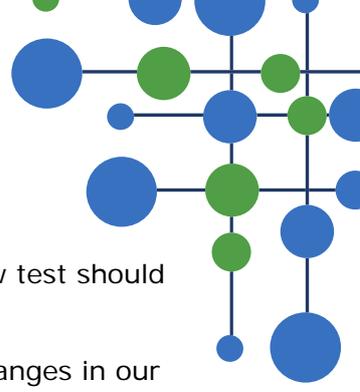
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## Testing for close contacts of positive cases

For those who are close contacts of positive cases of COVID-19, a lateral flow test should be conducted every day for seven days after contact with the positive case.

Whilst we, once again, adapt our procedures owing to COVID-19, nothing changes in our absolute determination to continue to do what we do at TCA: working hard and being nice to provide an excellent education to your child. We are constantly working in line with government guidance, which is available for parents/carers at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-school>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch with us.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Burton  
**Headteacher**