



# Woodkirk Academy

&  
The Sixth Form @ Woodkirk Academy

Principal: **Mr T Jones**

17 December 2021

Dear Parent

Thank you for your support this term. It has been wonderful to have our students in school under more normal circumstances. It has been possible to follow fully the intended curriculum and we have been able to offer more extra-curricular opportunities; I know that staff and students have enjoyed these. As ever, much credit must be given to our students. The vast majority have made the most of these opportunities and have conducted themselves excellently. This includes those students completing mock exams over the past few weeks. The behaviour and attitude shown was outstanding; I hope they will be rewarded for their hard work in the results, which will be published soon after the break. My thanks, as ever, to the staff who have worked tirelessly to do their best for our students.

Things have been a little different for the last few weeks. Whilst the return of mask wearing in communal areas isn't something we would necessarily choose, it is the right decision to support the national effort of keeping the spread of infection down. Students have responded well. Please continue to support us with this by ensuring your son/daughter has a mask, ideally a re-usable mask, to bring to school every day. As was the case earlier in the pandemic, your son/daughter should consider a face mask an essential school item and should arrive with this for the start of the day. As per recommendations, ideally students would have 2 clean masks each day and a sealable plastic bag for their storage.

## Responding to positive cases of COVID-19

Guidance regarding actions in response to positive cases and close contacts of these, changed this week. In summary:

- Students displaying COVID-19 symptoms should not attend school and should take a PCR test.
- Students with a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result or awaiting confirmatory PCR results should not attend school until the result is confirmed as negative.
- Students who are close contacts of a confirmed positive case are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days, or the duration of their close contact's period of self-isolation if this is shorter. They should continue to attend school, unless they have a positive test result or become unwell.
- Should a confirmatory PCR result show as negative, students can attend school. If they have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, they are encouraged to continue to LFD test every day for the remainder of 7 days, or their close contact's period of self-isolation.
- The 90 day 'exemption' from testing in the circumstances above is no longer recommended for those who have tested positive for COVID-19. This is a change to the previous position because we know people can be infected with Omicron even if they have had a previous Covid infection.

Continued ...

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- Students are encouraged to continue to take part in the LFD testing twice weekly.

For further information please [click here](#).

### January return and testing in school

As per previous communication, the school will remain closed to students on Tuesday 4 January. Only those students who have been offered a test should attend school at the specified time, after which they will return home. Appointment times will be shared with parents at the email address given on the consent form. Please look out for this; it will be sent during the break.

Remote lessons will be offered throughout the day via MS Teams; all students have a MS Teams account and should have accessed this during this academic year. They will be expected to follow their normal timetable of lessons. Attendance logs will be checked and absences followed up. If your son/daughter is struggling to access Teams from home, find [here](#) a guide with some advice and trouble-shooting tips.

The timings of the school day will be tweaked slightly on Tuesday 4 January to ensure that staff and students are able to stretch their legs between lessons. Students are expected to connect to the call by the stated time. There will be no Form Time; and break and lunch will be taken at the same time by all year groups.

Period 1	9.15-10.10 am
Rest break	10.10-10.15 am
Period 2	10.15-11.10 am
Break	11.10-11.30 am
Period 3	11.30 am-12.25 pm
Lunch	12.25-1.00 pm
Period 4	1.00-1.55 pm
Rest break	1.55-2.00 pm
Period 5	2.00-3.00 pm

### Term dates 2022-23

The term dates for the 2022-23 academic year have been added to the website. They can be viewed [here](#).

I hope you manage to have a safe, restful and enjoyable holiday and all the best for 2022.

Yours sincerely



Mr T Jones  
Principal