

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing in order to inform you of the staggered start we will be running at the beginning of the Spring term in light of the requirement that all secondary schools test students for Covid-19 upon their return.

With increased mixing over the festive period and the rising concern about the Omicron variant, we will be having a phased approach to students returning to school. This will allow us to test all students who have previously been provided with parental consent and identify any traces of the virus before exposure to the wider school community. I understand that this may cause some inconvenience but I am sure that you can appreciate the importance of ensuring the health and safety of everyone in our school community.

Students will arrive at the normal time between 08:00 and 08:25 on their allotted day, and be registered before proceeding to the testing room. Once again, I can assure you all that the test will be self-administered by the students themselves with guidance from our fully trained team. Once they have taken the test, they will then go straight to their first lesson.

The schedule for the return of each year group is below:

**Wednesday 5th January - Year 11**

**Thursday 6th January - Year 10**

**Friday 7th January - Year 9**

**Monday 10th January - Year 8**

**Tuesday 11th January - Year 7**

It is important to note that students will still be required to wear a face mask in all communal areas of the school and it is your responsibility to ensure that your child is equipped with one. While we can provide a face mask to students who have broken or lost one in school, our supply is finite and I am sure that you can appreciate that the health and safety of our wonderful community lies with us all.

Also, in order to minimise the disruption to learning, all students in Years 7-9 will be sent work via Google Classroom to complete while they await their return. If you or your child have any questions about this then please do not hesitate to contact their teacher.

Finally, before we break up for the festive season your child will be provided with a fresh supply of Lateral Flow Tests (LFT). This version of the test requires a nasal swab only so you should find it much easier and quicker to use. It is essential that your child continues to test themselves twice per week and report the result to [covidtesting@wappinghigh.org](mailto:covidtesting@wappinghigh.org).

For now, that is it from me and I will be writing to you in the New Year with further information regarding the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine to all 12-15 year olds. In the meantime, Mr. Nelson and myself would like to wish all families the very best over the festive season.

Thanks and best wishes to all.

Mr. Tom Raw  
Deputy Headteacher

Mr. Gary Nelson  
Headteacher