



# St. Joseph's RC High School

## Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

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**Headteacher/Pennaeth:** Mrs J Jarrett BA(Hons) M.A NPQH

6 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Re: Arrangements for learners returning to school**

Happy New Year! I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas holiday and that Covid has not affected your Christmas plans and celebrations too badly and if it has, that at least everyone in your family has remained well. Given the current situation, Covid will inevitably cause disruption in schools this term, but we shall continue to do everything we can to mitigate this.

As we look forward to welcoming all learners back to school on **Thursday 6 January**, I wanted to write to you with the current situation regarding coronavirus and Welsh Government's latest guidance for schools.

### **Regular testing**

Learners and staff are strongly encouraged to conduct a lateral flow test (LFT) at home either the evening or morning before they return on January 6th, then continue to test three times a week at home and report the results on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

Learners who have consented to taking a LFT at home will be issued with their lateral flow devices (LFD) on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Self-isolation requirements**

If learners or staff have symptoms of COVID-19, they should self-isolate and take a PCR test as soon as possible. If they have tested positive for COVID-19 they must self-isolate and follow the guidance below.

Learners and staff can leave self-isolation after 7 full days (on day 8 of their self-isolation period) if they record 2 negative LFTs. They should take a LFT on day 6 of their self-isolation period and another LFT 24 hours later. This is to check if they remain infectious and could pass COVID-19 on to others.

A LFT should not be taken before the sixth day of the self-isolation period because the risks of remaining infectious and the chances of passing it on to others before this period is significantly higher.

### **Close contact: Fully vaccinated adults and young people aged between 5 and 17**

Fully vaccinated adults or young people aged between 5 and 17 do not need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact but they are strongly advised to:

- take a LFT every day for 7 days or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier
- take this daily test before they leave the house for the first time that day
- upload all tests results on GOV.UK even if negative or void. This helps improve our understanding of infection rates across the UK and helps inform how we manage the pandemic to keep people safe whilst keeping life as normal as possible

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## **Face coverings**

Unless exempt, the expectation is that learners and staff continue to wear a face covering in all communal areas including the classroom.

## **Exams and assessments in January**

External examinations and assessments in January will still go ahead.

I am sorry that we are starting the term on this note yet again; let us all hope and pray that 2022 is the year when we finally get on top of this situation. Please contact your child's Head of Year if you have any particular concerns.

I will, of course, keep you updated of any further changes. As always, we are dedicated to providing your children with the best education possible and are all really excited about seeing them on Thursday 6 January.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jarrett

Headteacher

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