



14 Dec 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well.

It is difficult to believe that we are already in December and just one week away from the end of term. I would like to offer my continued thanks for your support and to bring to your attention some important end of term updates.

Please can I remind you that this year, we will finish on Tuesday 21 December at 1.10pm rather than Wednesday 22 December as published by Derbyshire. This is due to the additional Queens Jubilee holiday in 2022 which schools were required to place during the academic year in addition to other INSET days. Netherthorpe chose to place it at this time to ensure it had minimal impact on our exams season.

To help bring in the festive season properly, the last day will be non-uniform and we hope students will join us in wearing their Christmas jumpers on this day.

Arrangements for the phased return to school in January 2022

Thank you for your continued engagement in the Covid-19 testing programme. Testing is important because as many as one in three people who contract the virus show no symptoms, so could be spreading the virus unknowingly.

Over the Christmas break, staff and students are encouraged to take a rapid lateral flow test in situations where they are more likely to catch or spread COVID-19. This includes spending time in crowded and enclosed spaces, or before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they catch Covid-19.

Students who are participating in the programme will be provided with more tests before the Christmas break but can obtain additional boxes as required from reception during the school term. During the holiday, families can obtain home testing kits through gov.uk or local pharmacies.

Testing on return to school

In line with government guidance, the school has again been asked to operate an on-site asymptomatic test site (ATS) on the return to school in January 2022.

Unfortunately, in order to facilitate this, the school will need to stagger and delay the start to term.

Thanks to the amazing efforts of our on-site testing team, we are able to accomplish this task very quickly to minimise the impact on our young people and their education. Although we know that this may cause families some frustration, this is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation.

Please note the testing process is voluntary but we highly encourage everyone to participate to ensure we can continue education provision safely for all.

Testing all staff and students without symptoms will support the education sector to continue to operate. Asymptomatic testing is a critical tool to help prevent the transmission of Covid -19. It is done via simple and quick tests, known as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. These enable us to rapidly test pupils, students and staff, without the need for a laboratory. No test is 100% accurate, but the LFD, when done as part of a testing regime is very good at picking up those with high viral loads i.e. those that are the most contagious.

Please find below details of our phased return and testing arrangements:

On Monday 10th and Tuesday 11 January 2022, students will only attend school for testing in line with the schedule below.

To allow us to get students back into school as quickly as possible, all staff in school will be required to support with the testing programme. Work will be set on Satchel. Students in years 7-9 will be set English and Mathematics tasks as well as a personal development project. Students in years 10-13 will be set tasks to support revision and allow them to revisit and reinforce their understanding of prior learning concepts.

Students sitting external examinations on Monday 10th January should attend exams as timetabled. If easier, students can take their tests after the exam so they do not have to return to school later.

Students will attend the test site in school with their forms on the days indicated below at their allocated times (see schedule).

Year Group	Testing day	Time of appointment by form	Return to school
7	Mon 10 January (am)	Please see the schedule below for appointment times.	Weds 12 January 2022
8	Tues 11 January (am)		
9	Mon 10 January (pm)		
10	Tues 11 January (am)		
11	Tues 11 January (pm)		
12	Mon 10 January (am)		
13	Tues 11 January (pm)		

If families, wish for siblings in different year groups to attend together for their tests, the school is able to accommodate this to support parent/carers.

Students must arrive no more than 5 minutes before their appointment slot and report to the sports hall via the community entrance. They must leave site immediately after testing and the testing process should take between 5-10 minutes. Students are not required to wear school uniform.

Families will receive a notification of the results directly from NHS Test and Trace but the school will contact any families to provide further guidance if the result is positive.

Appointment times for testing January 2022

Mon 10th January 2022

Morning Session: Year 7 and 12

Afternoon Session: Year 9

Appointment time	Form	Appointment time	Form
9.00	12RPB	1.00	9DF
9.10	12EWI	1.15	9ACL
9.20	12MVE	1.30	9BMA/CBA
9.30	12BCR	1.45	9KKE/LSH
9.40	12VCO	2.00	9BED
9.50	12CMA/ARA	2.15	9SCR
10.05	7LBE	2.30	9DTA
10.20	7DBT		
10.35	7SFO		
10.50	7LHO		
11.05	7JF/GSI		
11.30	7GRI		

Tues 11th January 2022

**Morning Session: Year 8 and 10
and 13**

Afternoon Session: Year 11

Appointment time	Form		Appointment time	Form
9.00	10DWN		12.45	11HJA/WWE/NJH
9.10	10CHA/RGI		12.55	11APR
9.20	10GWA		1.05	11PGR
9.30	10CHW/SHU		1.15	11JMC
9.40	10MCO		1.25	11SDE
9.50	10JRT		2.00	11KYA/KST
10.00	10JRO/HNE		2.05	11MA
10.10	8MRA		2.15	13MPE
10.20	8SPR		2.25	13AWA
10.30	8GWI		2.35	13AGR/SHU
10.40	8JFA		2.45	13DKS
10.50	8KHA		2.55	13ARR
11.00	8EMC		3.10	13TAR

All students will return to school as normal on Wednesday 12th January 2022 as long as they do not have symptoms and have had a negative test result.

Please be aware that any students who have previously tested positive for Covid-19 should not engage with the LFD testing programme for 90 days.

If you have previously given consent for your child to be part of the school asymptomatic testing programme back in September 2021, your current permissions remain valid. If you would like to change your consent status for testing or ask further questions, please don't hesitate in contacting me on headteacher@netherthorpeschool.co.uk prior to our return.

How to register and consent to testing

If you have not previously given consent but are happy for your child to be tested, please click on the appropriate link/ QR code below where you will be asked to complete;

- 1. A Registration form- which will be required to process the test and;**
- 2. A Consent form**
 - For students younger than 16 years - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian.**

- Students **over the age of 16** who are able to provide informed consent - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.

One consent form will need completing per child as all participating individuals need consent. This consent form will replace any previously provided.

To access the forms, please click on the link below or scan the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/r/n9pMRzcPsw>



For any pupil or student who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian.

Please note that all forms must be **completed by 12pm on Sunday 9 January 2022** at the latest if you wish for your child to participate in the school testing programme.

If you are unable to complete the form electronically or require support, please contact the school for help before the deadline. A privacy notice can be found on our website with regard to how we use your data.

Coronavirus measures update

Over the last few weeks, we have seen a notable decrease in the number of covid cases in our student body. Thank you for your support in ensuring that all students (except those that are exempt) are provided with face coverings. As with previous situations, the overwhelming majority of students are mindful of the need to protect themselves and others, and take care to remind themselves to wear face coverings on our bus services and in indoor communal areas and corridors. We do understand that sometimes both young people and adults forget, so our approach is to be relentless and positive with reminders as well as reiterating the purpose. Thank you to parent/ carers for continuing to promote these messages at home. We do have a small stock of spare face coverings that students can pick up from reception if they break, lose or forget their masks.

The school will continue to support any student, staff or visitor who wishes to wear a mask in class for personal reassurance.

We will also be accommodating of any recommendations from Public Health where there is an outbreak and we are advised to fully re-introduce face coverings in all areas including classrooms within our setting.

Enrichment activities

Moving on to more positive matters, the highlight for me last week, was again seeing first-hand how amazing our school community really are as they came together to support the Sheffield Shoebox appeal. Thank you for all your support. We saw the same level of care when we invited our students and families to contribute to the food bank appeal earlier this year.

Last week we kicked off the festive season with the arrival of the Christmas tree in our reception area as well as the arrival of festive decorations appearing in form rooms across the site and Christmas lunch served in the Canteen.

The end of term remains as busy as ever and we will see the return of our award assemblies this week as well as the roller disco reward event to celebrate the success of our wonderful students. We will also be hosting our normal celebrations in form time on the final day of term.

The end of term also sees the first of our House sport competitions this year with lots of house points up for grabs.

Our extra-curricular enrichment programme is updated each half term and published in our 'what's on guide'. There are a wide range of activities on offer so please encourage your child to participate.

Don't miss out...

During the lockdown, our Art department launched a photography competition and every month students were given a different theme to respond to in their photographs. The aim was to support well-being and to encourage our students to get outside. The response from our students was over-whelming and they responded by entering some fabulous imagery.

After careful consideration, the winning photos have been put together and included in the school's first post-covid lockdown calendar.

At a fabulous price of just £5, calendars can be purchased via Parentpay and collected from Miss Forster in Art. All monies raised will be donated to the charities selected by our Charity committee. Please be aware that availability is limited so don't miss out.

Qualifications and Examination Updates 2022

Due to the ever changing climate of education, this term, we will see the first of our monthly update from the exams and qualifications team for all students and their families taking examinations in the summer of 2022.

These updates will be published and shared via email and our website to ensure everyone remains informed of any school and government updates as and when they arise.

Parents Evenings and School reports

This term, we saw the return of face to face parents' evenings and it was lovely to see so many of our year 7, 10, 11 and 13 families back in school.

We will continue to risk assess these occasions next year, in light of any updated Covid-guidance, to ensure the safety of all staff, students and our families at the upcoming events.

- **Thurs 13 January - Year 9 Options Virtual Information Event**
- **Tues 25 January - Year 9 Parents Evening**
- **Tues 1 February- Year 12 Parents Evening**
- **Tues 8 February- Year 8 Parents Evening**

Further information regarding these specific events will be sent out separately in advance to the appropriate year groups.

The school is currently completing our first data collection cycle and we will share current attainment and behaviour for learning data with students/ parents and carers in a report which will be distributed after Christmas.

As you are aware, at the start of term, we conducted externally marked GL assessments across a number of areas in years 7-9 to identify any gaps in knowledge to allow our teachers to adapt the curriculum to meet the individual needs of our students.

The hope was that we would be in a position to use this data to improve our reporting to parent/ carers at Key Stage 3 in January 2022. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we are unable to modify the first report home this January but will look to share some of this assessment data with parent/carers, as required, separately early in the new year.

School Uniform and Equipment

Our school uniform is an important part of the school's culture and ethos so thank you for all your support this term in ensuring your child attends school in the correct uniform. Although the majority of students have maintained high standards of uniform since September, we did see an increase in the number of pupils wearing trainers, jewellery, jeans and non-school skirts.

From January, we will continue to expect all students to arrive in full school uniform every day. Please can I ask that parent/carers support us

in ensuring that their children adhere to our uniform policy on their return. Our school uniform expectations can be found on the website. We will contact home if a student continually fails to adhere to the policy and discuss any support they may need as it would be shame if we have to resort to imposing sanctions.

Due to the constraints of our site, it really is important that pupils bring a warm and waterproof outdoor coat to school as almost all breaks and lunchtimes are outside. Hoodies cannot be worn as an alternative.

To ensure they can fully engage in their learning, all students are also required to bring a bag into school each day and as a bare minimum, we recommend that they bring a pencil case containing a black, blue and green pen, pencil, ruler, pencil sharpener and eraser. Students should also have their own calculator. Thank you for your support with this.

We appreciate that some families may be experiencing financial difficulties during this time. Please do not hesitate in contacting the schools pastoral team (your child's Head of Section or Pastoral Support manager) if you need support with any uniform requirements or other resources.

If your circumstances have changed, your child may be eligible for free school meals and the way to apply has now been made much easier. To be eligible for free school meals you must be in receipt of Income Support, Universal Credit or Child Tax Credit with earned income under the current threshold.

Please note that those in receipt of working tax credit are not eligible. We do not need documentary evidence of benefits or any official pieces of paper. All you need to do is complete the simple free school meals form on our website and we will do all the work for you. Please pay particular attention to your National Insurance number and your date of birth. Once we have received these we can check if your child is entitled to a free school meal.

FSM form link: <https://www.netherthorpe.academy/parentsinfo> If you are unable to access the form, give our reception team a call and they will support.

Attendance

Thank you to all of our families for your support in ensuring school attendance continues to be above national average at Netherthorpe school.

If pupils are unable to attend school for whatever reason, parents/ carers should notify the school using the normal procedures that we have in

place by calling the school. Parents/ carers of pupils who are expected to attend but do not will be contacted by the attendance team if we have not had any communication from you.

Under no circumstances should pupils, staff or visitors attend school if they have Covid symptoms.

Recruitment: Job opportunities in school

We have the following vacancies available in school, if you or someone you know would like to join our wonderful team, please contact us at info@netherthorpe.derbyshire.sch.uk for more information or give us a call on 01246 472220. Further details can be found in the vacancies section of the school website.

Exams Invigilators - £10.01 per hour (plus holiday pay)

We are looking to recruit a team of invigilators to oversee forthcoming examinations, ideally starting Jan 2022 but this is negotiable. You will have a key role in upholding the integrity and security of the examination/ assessment process. Experience of invigilation is not required as training in the role and duties of an invigilator will be provided. Flexible working hours are available subject to exam board schedules and the amount of hours offered may vary.

Midday Supervisor - £9.43 per hour

We are looking to recruit a midday supervisor to support us with the supervision of our students at lunchtime from 12.15- 1.15pm every day. The start date can be negotiated for a suitable candidate but ideally this will be as soon as possible.

Key events reminder- Spring term 1

Date	Event
Mon 10/ Tues 11 January	On site testing years 7-13
Wed 12 January	Spring term starts for all students
Thurs 13 January	Year 9 Options Virtual Information Event
Fri 14 January	Sixth form application deadline
Tues 18 January	Parent Voice meeting
Tues 25 January	Year 9 Parents Evening
Tues 1 February	Year 12 Parents Evening
Fri 4 February	Year 9 Options deadline
Tues 8 February	Year 8 Parents Evening
Mon 31 Jan- Fri 11 February	Year 11 and 13 Internal Assessment period
Tues 15 February	Year 11/13 Revision programme begins
Mon 21 st - Fri 25 February	Half Term Holiday


And finally...

Thank you again for your continued positive messages of support during this time. It is important that you continue to keep in touch with the school and let us know if you need any advice or guidance regarding your child.

As promised, I will continue to communicate with you regularly and update you on important issues as and when they develop. Therefore, we advise parents and carers to check their emails and keep an eye on our school website and twitter account.

On behalf of everyone at Netherthorpe, I wish you a peaceful and restful holiday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. S. W. I. C. J.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Headteacher



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