



Tudor Grange Academy Redditch

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you have all been able to enjoy family time and some festive fun over the Christmas period. We are looking forward to the return to school and I am writing to update you on guidance sent to all schools on Sunday 2nd January.

As you are aware, all schools have been asked to ensure that secondary school students undertake one on-site test, on return in January. A reminder that our arrangements are as follows:

- Students should take an LFD test at home on Sunday 2nd January.
- come into school for a Covid test **on Tuesday 4th January for Year 10, Year 11 and Sixth Form** and **Wednesday 5th January for Year 9.**

Students are invited to come in for their Covid test on the date above according to their surname – please see the schedule below:

Tuesday 4th January Y10-13:

Surname	Time of Covid test
A-B	8.45 am
C-E	9.45 am
F-H	10.45 am
I-M	12.30 pm
N-R	2.00 pm
S-Z	3.00 pm

Wednesday 5th January Y9:

Surname	Time of Covid test
A-B	8.45 am
C-E	9.45 am
F-H	10.45 am
I-M	12.30 pm
N-R	1.30 pm
S-Z	2.30 pm

Students do not need to wear uniform to attend school for their test. The test is voluntary, but I would strongly encourage everyone to take it. In the event that your child is unable to come into school for the Covid test, please ensure they undertake a LFD test at home and report the results in the usual way.



If you haven't already completed the consent form please use the following link:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IUVmEPIfGE2U9SflCX2T_RcVoH5UuZNPtPdUTV_7ufVUMjl5WUVKMVIBQ0IUTVBPO1FFTEVQN0YwMy4u

We must have written consent for every student. If any students arrive for testing and the form in the link has not been completed we will not be able to test them. If you do not wish for your child to be tested, please still complete the form so we are aware of your decision. Students over 16 are allowed to complete the form themselves after discussing the testing with a parent/carer. If your child is over 16 please share the link with them if they would prefer to complete it themselves.

Lesson Arrangements from Tuesday 4th January

Work will be set for **ALL** students to complete via Teams on **Tuesday 4th January**. Students will need to check their timetable for that day (week A) and access the work via assignments in their class Team.

Year 10-13 return to school for face-to-face lessons on **Wednesday 5th January** and **Year 9** on **Thursday 6th January**.

Year 9 will be able to access live lessons via Teams on **Wednesday 5th January** following their week A timetable. They are expected to attend these lessons other than when they are in school for their LFD test.

Students are then strongly encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home and

to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) and to us at

<https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/login> if you have already registered. Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site through ATS or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

Changes to self-isolation period

You may already be aware that since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to **7 days in most circumstances**, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Daily testing for close contacts

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Contingency arrangements

We recognise that the high rates of COVID-19 may cause difficulties with the availability of our staff and we have plans in place to address this. **Our priority will be to keep school open and to continue with face-to-face education.** If we face staff shortages, we will:

- Redeploy available staff within school to cover classes where the teacher is absent
- Combine classes (as consistent groupings or 'bubbles' is not part of the current guidance)
- Use available staffing from external agencies

We have no plans to move to remote education but it is important that we have plans in place should we need to do this at any point. Should there be a short term need for us to use remote education following advice from the DfE or Public Health officials then all students will be invited to their lessons via Teams. We will follow student's usual timetable, and in most cases, lessons will be taught live by their subject teacher. Where this isn't practical, for example PE, then work or alternative activities will be set. All students have access to Office 365 and can access Teams by logging in using their school username and password. Student's homework is already set via Teams so they should be familiar with this system.

Updated guidance on the use of face coverings

It is now recommended that **face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated.** The advice is short term only and will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed. Thank you for the support we saw at the end of term for the use of face masks in all communal areas, we hope that we will see similar support for this short term use of face masks in classrooms now.

Face masks and ventilation continue to be two of our strongest control measures. We have been using the CO2 monitors provided by the DfE to monitor ventilation in areas across the school. Staff will continue to ensure that they follow the guidance we have given to them to keep the spaces that they teach in well ventilated.

Examinations and assessments in January

All scheduled examinations and assessments will be going ahead as we originally planned; we will follow guidance issued by the awarding organisations and any students taking examinations will be provided with the details they need.

Supporting good attendance

We have been delighted that so many of our students have sustained good attendance throughout this year so far and we need to continue to focus on enabling this. Please continue to follow our routine procedures for reporting absences as quickly as you are able to so that we can focus our resources and available support. To report a student absence please contact our Attendance Officer on 01527-830730 or alternatively, you can contact our Student Services on 01527-830736.

The spring term is always one full of hope and optimism as the days eventually become longer and nature bursts into life again. We have been a very strong community throughout the trials of the pandemic and I feel confident that we can navigate this next phase together, using what we have learnt. Please do communicate with us when you need to and thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mrs J Bolter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline.

Mrs J Bolter