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Dear Parents and Carers 6th December 2021

## **January Testing Arrangements**

Thank you for your continued engagement in the Covid-19 testing programme. Please continue to encourage your child to test twice weekly and report the results.

You must report your child's test results, even if their result is negative or void. You should also keep a note of and share your child's results with school <u>here</u>.

Reporting results is easy. Go to Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) or call I19 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Support is offered in 200 languages as well as British Sign Language.

Testing twice weekly is helping us stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and plan our response. The preparations that schools and colleges are advised to take are subject to further public health advice and the latest position on prevalence of the COVID-19 virus.

We would like to offer the following testing time slots in school during the INSET day on Tuesday 4th January 2022. Parents/Carers are to drop off and wait to collect students to return home following their visit to the test centre.

Year 7 – to attend between 9am – 9.45am
Year 8 – to attend between 10am – 10.45am
Year 9 – to attend between 11am – 11.45am
Year 10 – to attend between 12.30pm – 1.15pm
Years 11, 12 & 13 – to attend between 1.30pm – 2.45pm

This is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. We recognise, however, the need to minimise any disruption to education and to continue to support your child's mental wellbeing. The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation.

In order to be ready to start this, we require the consent of parents/carers for any students in Year 7-11. Those in the Sixth Form are technically able to give their own consent; however in all cases we will confirm with the wishes of parents/carers so can we ask Sixth Form parents/carers to complete this as well. Please note if your child has previously tested positive for Covid-19 Government guidance is that these students should refrain from Lateral Flow Testing until after the expiration of the 90 day period following the positive test.

Should you wish to do so, please give consent to testing by **3pm on Friday I 0**<sup>th</sup> **December 2021** using the electronic consent form here. Please note the consent form should be completed even if you have previously given consent for testing if you wish your child to either opt in or out of mass testing followed by 'at-home' testing from January 2022.

We will not be accepting consent for on-site testing received after the deadline, however any consent received after this date will be included for the despatch of 'at-home' testing kits going forward.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Beynon Headteacher