

The
Portsmouth Academy

4th January 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable and safe Christmas.

I wanted to update you on information relating to the school re-opening this week. As you know, today (Tuesday 4th January), is a planned staff training day with students returning for the start of term three Wednesday 5th January.

During the Christmas break, the Prime Minister updated national guidance on face coverings in school. **From Wednesday, face coverings should be worn by students and staff in classrooms.** This is a temporary measure aimed to reduce the spread of the Omicron variant within schools and is due to be reviewed at the end of January.

Some people may be exempt from wearing a face covering; if your child is exempt and you have not already informed the school, please do contact us as soon as you can on a.friend@tsatrust.org.uk. We would like to stress the importance of students being sensitive towards individual circumstances, particularly in instances in which their peers may not be wearing a face covering.

Students and staff (and visitors to the school, where essential) should continue to wear face coverings in all communal areas within the school, unless they are exempt. Similarly, students should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, again, unless they are exempt. Other protective measures that were in place before the Christmas break remain in place:

- Face coverings
- Ventilation in classrooms
- Contact tracing and isolation
- Revert to Teams assemblies
- Parent access to the office will be limited and it is strongly advised that you call or email the school before coming on to the premises.
- Limit visitors to site to essential visitors only

Following my communication in December, students are required to undertake a lateral flow test before returning to school. This should be done on site on the previously specified days (see below), consent for which should be provided using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/5ph4ry8vAa>

To ensure that testing can take place effectively, we will phase the students' return in January 2022 accordingly:

www.theportsmouthacademy.org.uk

TRANSFORMING LIFE CHANCES

Principal: Mrs Rachel Grey BA (Hons)

Director of Education: Miss N Sheppard BSc (Hons) MA NPQH

St Mary's Road,
Portsmouth, PO1 5PF

T: 0333 360 2210

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The Portsmouth Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755

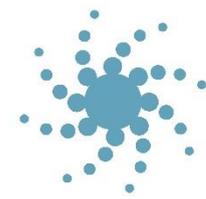


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Year	Tuesday 4 th Jan	Wednesday 5 th Jan	Thursday 6 th Jan	Friday 7 th Jan
11	On site testing	Return to school 8.30am	At school	At school
10	INSET	Online learning via Teams	On site testing and online learning via Teams assignments	Return to school 8.30am
9	INSET	On site testing and online learning via Teams assignments	Return to school 8.30am	At school
8	INSET	Online learning via Teams	On site testing and online learning via Teams assignments	Return to school 8.30am
7	INSET	Online learning via Teams	Online learning via Teams	On site testing and online learning via Teams assignments

Specific times for each tutor group were sent out at the end of December. All students will be back on site on Monday 10th January, 2022.

We will of course, do all we can to keep our school open for face-to-face learning. However, if we are impacted by rising case numbers within year groups or large staff absences, we may need to move some year groups to remote learning. We can all play our part in preventing this by following the safety measures in place such as wearing face coverings and continued testing.

Important

Following the Christmas break, if your child has developed symptoms of COVID-19 do not return to school as per the scheduled date for their year group. Please book a PCR test and seek advice from the NHS website at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19. In this instance, please contact the school office from Tuesday 4th January, and we will advise you on the measures.

We continue to encourage all students and staff to participate in regular COVID-19 testing. This will help reduce transmission after a period of social mixing during the holidays. Students are asked to continue testing twice weekly at home and to report all results to NHS Test and Trace and to their setting using this [link](#). We continue to make LFT tests available to students who need them. Even if you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, you are strongly encouraged to take part in LFT testing once you have completed the isolation period for prior infection.

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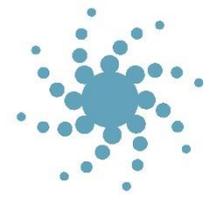


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A reminder that since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people has changed. If your child receives a negative test result on day 6 and day 7 (at least 24 hours apart) then they can leave self-isolation on day 7.

I hope that the information in this letter is helpful and clear. If you have any questions, please email Miss A Friend, Student Medical & Wellbeing Officer, on a.friend@tsatrust.org.uk. We are committed to ensuring that our school is a safe learning environment for pupils and staff and will continue to take decisions in the best interests of our pupils, while following Government rules and advice.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Grey
Principal

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