



The McAuley Catholic High School and Sixth Form

An 11 – 18 Voluntary Academy in the Diocese of Hallam

Headteacher: John Rooney Chair of Governors: Dr Pat Hurley

Friday 7th January

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter gives more detail on the key messages in my recent video about the start of the new term. We started the term with our onsite testing of all year groups. I would like to take the opportunity to thank parents and pupils for doing Lateral Flow tests before returning to school meaning we had very few testing positive in School. In total we had only 6 positives from over 1000 tests carried out. We would also like to thank you for the amazing support in giving over 95% consent across the School.

Targetted on site testing

We will continue to review the numbers of cases in each year group. If we identify a year group where the numbers of cases are increasing dramatically, we may choose to introduce on site testing for this year group to try and reduce the spread. We will also ask parents and pupils to test more regularly during these periods. We are currently awaiting a new delivery of home testing kits which are due the week commencing 10th January, as soon as these arrive they will be given to students.

Testing at home:

From 11 January, staff and pupils who test positive using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test will have to self-isolate immediately (as per current guidance) but [won't be required](#) to take a PCR test to confirm their LFD result. This is because most people "with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19" while levels of the virus remain high across the UK. Please ensure you register your result with 'Track and Trace'. If your child tests positive either through Lateral Flow or PCR please email cv@mcauley.org.uk with details of this so School can keep track of cases in School.

Students who are exempt from wearing face coverings should test every day before coming to school.

Self-Isolation if a close contact:

If your child has been a close contact they no longer need to isolate, however, they must do a Lateral Flow Test each morning before attending School for 7 days from the last contact with the person who tested positive. (we have enclosed information form Public Health and Doncaster Council). The diagram below from the UK Health Support Agency may help.

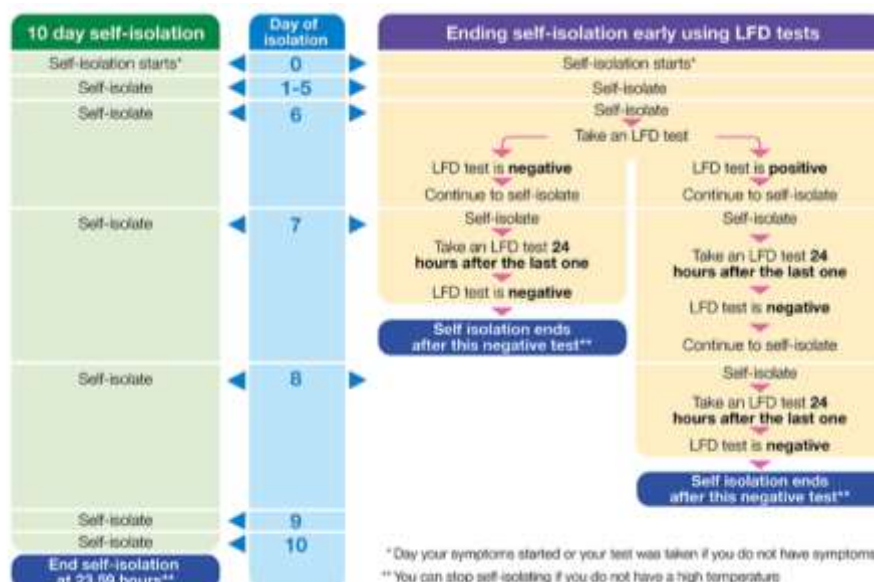


"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10

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If there is a positive test day 6 and 7 they can keep testing until 2 clear days. or they can come in after day 10 even with a positive lateral flow test - as at this point it is deemed so low that you are no longer infectious.

Impact on staffing:

As we start the term we, like other settings, are experiencing extreme pressures on staffing due to the current wave of Covid. We will always endeavour to remain fully open to all students for face to face learning but if this becomes unviable we may need to move certain year groups to Emergency Remote Learning on a rota basis. We will only take this decision when it is unsafe to have all year groups on site or staff absence negatively impacts on teaching and learning of a specific year group. This rota will be shared in advance to help with your planning.

Other mitigation

Testing and self-isolation will not, on their own, stop the spread of the virus, so please continue to provide two face coverings a day for your child, ensure that they wear their lanyard and encourage good hygiene. Finally, and most importantly, look to either get your child vaccinated or to receive a booster. The link below has been sent by the DFE so that jabs can be booked.

“Young people aged 12 to 15 in England are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Parents can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#).”

As always, I never underestimate the support that you give to us in these continuing challenging times.

John Rooney
 Headteacher