

13th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We know that children and young people have been hugely affected by the pandemic, both in terms of their education and their ability to socialise and participate in activities that benefit them outside of formal education. We want to thank you as parents and guardians for your support over the past eighteen months. We know this time has been difficult for many of you, as well as for the young people you care for.

Testing has been playing a vital role in the response to COVID-19. It is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. This means those who test positive can self-isolate, keeping other pupils and students in face-to-face education. Reporting all test results, positive or negative, helps the health experts have a clearer picture of any potential outbreaks in different parts of the country.

After the Christmas holidays pupils and students will be offered twice weekly tests on-site for a period of two weeks. After this point, COVID 19 levels will be reviewed and a decision will be taken on what level of testing is still required.

You should encourage your children to continue testing and [report](#) results twice a week, at home, throughout the Christmas school holiday and **take a test before returning to school**.

Please check if your child has enough test kits to continue testing over the holidays and let us know if you require more. You can also order more [online](#) through gov.uk or collect from your local pharmacy.

Additional information:

- Children displaying the symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate and get a PCR test.
- Children who receive a positive LFD result should isolate and book a PCR test to confirm their result.
- Children who are identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace should take a PCR test and continue to go to school while they wait for their result.
- In response to potential outbreaks, your school, college or local health team may advise additional testing. For example, if your child is identified as a close contact, they may be asked to take daily LFDs, while they wait for their PCR result. In this scenario, they should continue to attend school as long as their LFD results remain negative.

Vaccination

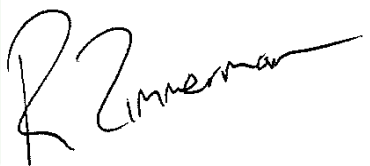
Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

Thousands of young people across the country have already taken the opportunity to receive their vaccine. We remind you that 16 and 17-year-olds can book their vaccination through the National Booking Service or find a convenient walk-in site. We would also encourage you to book a vaccination for yourself if you have not done so already, or if you have missed a second dose.

Please contact Diana Barry (dbarry@pencalenick.org 01872520385), our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns or visit the NHS website (www.nhs.uk) which is also an excellent source of advice, which will be able to answer many of your questions about testing or vaccination. If not, you can call the 119 service who should be able to help with questions on testing.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,



Ruth Zimmerman
Head Teacher