



10 December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

As I am sure you are aware, the Government has said all secondary school students should receive one on-site lateral flow device test on their return to school in January. This is to try to limit the spread of the Covid 19 virus following a period of social mixing over Christmas. At the time of writing, if a student were to test positive for the new variant Omicron on a PCR test, all close contacts would then need to self-isolate for ten days, regardless of vaccination status. By testing each student before they mix with others, the aim is to prevent any more self-isolation than absolutely necessary.

To facilitate the smooth and safe return of all students, we will ask parents and carers to pre-book appointments for testing at the school on Tuesday 4 January and Wednesday 5 January. The system will run exactly as it did before.

The schedule (below) will allow us to test all students with consent, before we fully re-open to all students on Thursday 6 January. By booking an appointment, you are giving consent as a parent for the test to be conducted. It is not a pre-requisite for students to be tested before returning to school in January, but it is strongly recommended. Engagement in testing remains entirely voluntary for students. Those who do not consent to testing will be allowed to return to school on their allocated day.

Please find below a table outlining the testing schedule:

- Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will need one pre-booked appointment for Tuesday 4 January. They will return to school on Wednesday 5 January.
- Years 7, 8 and 9 will need one pre-booked appointment for Wednesday 5 January. They will return to school on Thursday 6 January.

Summary table

Year group	Test 1	Remote learning	Return date
Year 7	Wednesday 5 January	Tuesday 4 January	Thursday 6 January
Year 8	Wednesday 5 January	Tuesday 4 January	Thursday 6 January
Year 9	Wednesday 5 January	Tuesday 4 January	Thursday 6 January
Year 10	Tuesday 4 January	Independent learning around Covid test appointment	Wednesday 5 January
Year 11	Tuesday 4 January		Wednesday 5 January
Year 12	Tuesday 4 January		Wednesday 5 January
Year 13	Tuesday 4 January		Wednesday 5 January

### Independent Learning

Students who are coming in to school for testing will be set independent learning for them to complete during the day around their visit to school for their test.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are not in school on the first day back, and nor are they being tested. They will be expected to attend remote teaching (as they did in lockdown) and teachers will deliver the first 15 minutes of lessons and then be on-line to answer questions and support the learning.

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## Booking an appointment

We will be using our parents evening booking system. The booking system will be open from 4.00 pm on Friday 10 December and will close on Wednesday 15 December at 4.00 pm. Parents and carers can access the booking system via the Quick Links on the college website.

<https://southdartmoorcommunitycollege.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please use the email address below if you have any questions or problems with booking your son/daughter's appointments.

[OnsiteCOVIDtesting@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:OnsiteCOVIDtesting@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk)

## Appointment details

Parents and carers will be asked to arrive ten minutes before the allocated appointment time. Please park in the sixth form car park. Signage will direct students to the testing centre. We would ask all parents and carers to wait in the car whilst their child receives their test. Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow devices are easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat, identical to what students have been doing at home. After the appointment, students will return, using the one-way system, to awaiting parents and carers in the car park.

## Test results

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be asked to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void, students who test negative will be able to return to school on their allocated day. The testing programme at South Dartmoor and Atrium is for people with no symptoms. If you develop symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) you must immediately self-isolate, and book a PCR test by calling 119 or visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Best wishes



Dan Vile  
Assistant Head teacher

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