



Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

4 January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: Urgent: CHANGES TO ARRIVAL TIMES THURSDAY 6 JANUARY, TESTING ARRANGEMENTS AND MASKS – PLEASE READ FULLY

Firstly, may I wish you all a Happy New Year! I hope that the holiday period has been one of joy and happiness.

As you will be aware, the government has made significant changes to the rules regarding coronavirus isolation periods and when people can retest on lateral flow devices. As a result, all secondary schools and colleges must now test all students with consent **regardless of any previous infection within the last 90-days**. As you will appreciate, this was not part of our original planning, so apologies for any unexpected inconvenience that our updated plans may cause. **This letter will provide you with new and essential information surrounding this process.**

We will be testing all students on **Thursday 6 January 2022** and require your cooperation so that we can keep to a strict schedule and timings. We will still need to stagger our start. **Timings have been altered slightly for some year groups.** This information can be found below.

Testing

On arrival, there will be a signing in desk situated under the front canopy. Please ensure that your child is aware that you have or have not given permission for them to be tested.

Those with consent in Years 7 -11 will be tested once on their return. This includes those students who have previously tested positive within the last 90-days. The tests will be conducted in the sports hall. Students will then wait in the theatre for their results, which will take about 20 minutes. Students who have a negative result will go to their lessons, whereas anyone with a positive result will be isolated from their peers. Parents / carers will then be contacted to collect them. **Please can you ensure that your child has a book to read whilst they are waiting for their test result.**

Those without consent should attend College as normal on the 6 January 2022 and follow their timetable. Should you now wish to give consent for your child to be tested, please log on to Arbor to do so and inform your child that you have done this.

Sixth Form students will be asked to provide proof of testing in line with the above and a separate communication will be sent from the Sixth Form team regarding this.

Principal: Stuart Edwards

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Staggered return rota for students' first day back in College

To avoid large numbers of students waiting outside in the cold, we request that students arrive at the following times for testing. **Please note that some of these times have been altered from our December communication:**

Arrival Time	Thursday 6 January 2022
8.20 am	All Year 7 with consent
9.30 am	All Year 11 with consent
10.55 am	All Year 8 with consent
12.20 pm	All Year 10 with consent
13.50 pm	All Year 9 with consent

I appreciate that staggering students' return to College may cause transport issues for some students. I apologise for any inconvenience this causes but feel this is unavoidable if we are to get students back into College quickly. Students are not permitted to enter the building until they have a negative test. If your child is unable to arrive at College at the above time, please contact your child's Head of Year (formerly Pastoral Leaders) and we will try to accommodate any request for changes. If you have already done this, there is no need for you to recommunicate this. However, once again, I must state that any changes from the rota are the exception rather than the norm, as we will not be able to manage if more than a very small number of requests come in at the start of the day.

The above applies for students' first day back in College only. Students should attend as normal after this time. Parents / carers should note that attendance in College is compulsory. **If your child is absent due to testing positive for COVID-19, please email: covid@mrc-academy.org. If your child is absent for any other reason, please email: attendance@mrc-academy.org.**

Masks

All students attending secondary school or college must now wear a mask during lessons and in all communal spaces. Therefore, please can you ensure that your child brings a suitable face covering in every day for this purpose. We are aware that we do have a number of students who are exempt from wearing a face covering, and these students must wear a lanyard to indicate this. Lanyards will be available from your child's Head of Year.

May I also take this opportunity to remind you that all parents / carers do not come onto site without a prior appointment or permission. This will help to reduce the risk of transmission. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Phillip Lloyd
Vice Principal