



14 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we near the end of term, on Monday we enjoyed the Christmas concert for Year 7 and 8, the catering staff have been providing Christmas themed food all week in the absence of a Christmas lunch and we look forward to the annual Variety Show on Thursday and Friday, performed individually to each year group. There will also be celebration assemblies for each year group, following Year 11's last week when Santa made an appearance.

Despite the amber status and the challenges we have faced with staff and student absence, I have been hugely proud of the students' attitude in school, it is a privilege to see the high standards of behaviour and work ethic from our students. Colleagues have offered many enrichment opportunities throughout the term, where nearly 90% of students have participated. We look to build on this in the Spring term with a full enrichment programme, please keep an eye on the website for more information. As you will be aware we have had to postpone enrichment days twice. This has been very disappointing, but we hope the three enrichment days we have planned in March will be able to run without any issues.

### **Coronavirus Restrictions**

The announcement on Monday evening by the Government does not significantly impact our operations, as we had already made the move to mandatory face coverings, including for all visitors to our school. Active cases remain at relatively low levels, and we monitor these daily. We have contingency plans in place and, working with Public Health, we remain ready to introduce additional measures should our cases increase, or should we be advised to by the Government to do so both prior to the Christmas break and when we return in the New Year.

### **Onsite testing Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 January 2022**

To reduce the risk and spread of Covid-19 we will be completing one on-site test prior to your child/ren returning to school next term. There will be a staggered return to school on Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 January to complete the testing. Please see below for the date and time allocated to each year group based on the first letter of students' surnames.

Students will need to go to the Sports Hall via the playground and, once they have completed a test, they will need to remain in the hall for 15 minutes. Following the test, they will be provided with a barcode and instructions to register their details with the NHS which will enable the result to be texted or emailed to you. If your child tests positive they will need to return home immediately.

If your child has tested positive for Covid within 90 days, they do not need to test but will come back into school at their allotted date and time. Following the onsite test, please can your child/ren continue to twice weekly home test with lateral flow devices on a Monday and Thursday prior to coming into school.

If your child is experiencing Covid symptoms you should arrange for them to have a PCR test and isolate until you receive the result.

If your child has been identified as a close contact, they should complete a **daily lateral flow test for 7 days**. If they test negative, they will not need to isolate. If they test positive, they will need to isolate and arrange to have a PCR test. If the PCR test is negative, they do not need to continue to isolate, but will need to complete the 7 days of lateral flow tests.

Please note: when your child is not in school on the Tuesday and Wednesday, lessons will be streamed via MS Teams. Instructions on how to access 'Teams' is in the link here: [teams-guide.pdf \(castleschool.co.uk\)](https://castleschool.co.uk/teams-guide.pdf). If you do not have access to a device please contact the school via Mrs Jenkins: [hjenkins@castle.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:hjenkins@castle.somerset.sch.uk)

Testing Schedule	Year	Timings (as per surname)	After testing go to...	If not being tested go to...
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7	A-D 8.30	Normal lessons: P1 Hums and MFL P2 MFL and Maths	Attend lessons at school from P1
		E-K 9:00		
		L-P 9.30		
		R-Z 10:00		
	11	A-C 11.00	Online home learning until 11:00 (unless travelling for testing)	Attend lessons at school from P3
		D-J 11.30		
		K-R 12 noon		
		S-Z 12.30		
	10	A-D 13.30	Online home learning until P4 After testing, return home	Online home learning up to P4
		E-L 14.00		
M-R 14.30				
S-Z 15.00				
8 & 9	Online home learning, accessed on MS Teams			
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	8	A-C 8.30	Normal lessons: P1 Eng and Hums P2 Maths	Attend lessons at school from P1
D-J 9:00				

		K-P 9.30		
		R-Z 10:00		
	9	A-E 11.00 F-J 11.30 K-P 12 noon R-Z 12.30	Online home learning until 11:00 (unless travelling for testing)  After testing: P3 Sci and Eng P4 Maths and MFL	Online home learning P1 & P2  Attend lessons at school from P3
	<b>7, 10 &amp; 11</b>	Normal school day		

Friday 17 December will be the last day of term with students being dismissed from 2pm.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support this term and wish you all good health and happiness as we approach Christmas.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Lamb**  
**Headteacher**

