

Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS
Principal: Ms Lisa Boorman
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15th December 2021

Ref: LBO/TOV

Dear Parent/Carer

Staggered start for return to school in January

The Government is taking a cautious approach to the Omicron variant of Coronavirus and in January schools in England are required to Covid-test students as they return from the Christmas break. Further round of on-site testing will inevitably mean that the start of term is a little disrupted, but we will ensure that remote learning provision is in place for each day your child is at home and that disruption to learning is kept to a minimum within the constraints we have been set.

Every student is asked to undertake a LFT and will be offered an appointment to conduct the test onsite. (Details of the appointment time will be sent out in the post tomorrow).

Students will be supervised to undertake the test themselves. We hope that you will support and encourage your child to undertake the test to help protect the wider school community.

Students should attend site to undertake their test a few minutes before the appointment time and will be able to leave straight after and you will be informed of the test result via text/email from NHS Test & Trace.

Please note that, unfortunately, appointment times are fixed to enable us to test all 1,100 students over the first few days of term and we are unable to reschedule appointments for alternative times. The table below shows when your child will be starting on site for the term and gives details of how they should access remote learning in the interim. Please note that the return to school dates for each year group below are for all students, not just those coming to school for a lateral flow test. We ask that any student who is not being tested in school conducts a lateral flow test at home the day before returning to school and notifies us of a negative result by logging the result in School Screener or via email.

For students who normally use Academy school transport we will arrange for students to be tested first thing in the morning and will communicate the arrangements to parents separately to this letter.



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Registered Office: Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

The Academy uses a software package, SchoolScreener, for tracking COVID test results for both staff and students. If you have not already created an account, in order for us to be able to support your child to test in January, we will need you to register for SchoolScreener and complete a consent form. You will find the link to the School Screener package on the Academy website. A link to the correct area on the website can be accessed by clicking on the red bar at the top of the front page labelled 'Online COVID testing, registration and reporting'. We intend to use existing consent forms from parents who have previously done this.

Please note that Academy reception will be closed over the Christmas recess from 17th December 2021 to the 4th January 2022; if you have any concerns or queries regarding the testing, please email our enquiries email address enquiries@plympton.academy and staff will endeavour to answer your query.

Date	Students for testing	Learning strategy
Wednesday 5th Jan 2022	Year 11 Year 13	Y7-10: remote learning Y11: Hegarty & Seneca Y12/13: to be set work by individual teachers
Thursday 6th Jan 2022	Year 7 Year 12	Year 11/13: normal lessons Y7: Hegarty & Seneca Other years: remote learning
Friday 7th Jan 2022	Year 8	Y7 & Y11-13: normal lessons Y8: Hegarty & Seneca Y9 & 10: remote learning
Monday 10th Jan 2022	Year 10	Y7/8 & Y11-13: normal lessons Y10:Hegarty & Seneca Y9: remote learning
Tuesday 11th Jan 2022	Year 9	Y7/8 & Y10-13: normal lessons Y9: Hegarty & Seneca
Wednesday 12th Jan 2022	Mop up	All students into lessons

Attendance

If your child is unwell, we ask that you inform the school by calling the attendance office on 01752 33xxxx or emailing attendance@plympton.academy. This includes informing the school if your child has tested positive for COVID and is therefore having to self-isolate. These attendance procedures also apply to the remote learning period, so we are aware that your child may not be able to complete their work. Teachers will register students who are attending live lessons and we will contact you if your child is not attending.

Remote learning

Students in Years 7-11 will be set remote learning during this period, as detailed in the table above. This will mainly consist of pre-recorded lessons (similar to the lockdown lessons) which students will access through their subject Google Classrooms and students will follow their normal timetable. However, on the days when students are expected to be on site for their COVID tests, they will follow a bespoke timetable consisting of a combination of Hegarty, Seneca and Knowledge Organiser self-quizzing which they will access through the year group Google Classroom.

Students have had walk-through of this provision during registration this week. The slide presentation, which has detailed instructions for each year group and further support, can be found in the COVID 19 section of the Academy website.

Students will be expected to submit evidence of their learning (detailed in the lesson recordings) and teachers will be monitoring engagement.

Sixth Form students will be set independent learning by their class teachers through Google Classroom.

Please note that homework will *not* be set during the first week back (w/c 3.1.22) for all year groups and during the second week back (w/c 10.1.22) for Years 9 and 10.

If you need support with home learning, please email remotelearninghelpdesk@plympton.academy.

Thank you for your cooperation with this further government initiative on COVID testing and our apologies for the disruption this will cause.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Boorman', with a large loop at the bottom.

Ms L Boorman
Principal