

Fox Wood School

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Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you with regard to our arrangements from next week onwards. In terms of pupil experience this will largely be a case of carrying on as we have been over the past few weeks, although we are pleased to be welcoming back most of the children and many of our young people at college who have been learning from home throughout the last lockdown. We know that some of our most Clinically Extremely Vulnerable children/young people/families remain shielding in line with medical advice, and whilst we will miss them being physically in school and college, we look forward to continuing to engage with, and support, them through our home learning programmes.

With regard to testing arrangements I can confirm that all Fox Wood staff are being encouraged to test themselves twice a week using LFD tests which are supplied to us through the DfE scheme. This should assist us in identifying any Positive Covid cases quickly and enable us to take swift action to reduce the risk of transmission. This may mean (if someone tests Positive) us having to let you know that your child will have to self-isolate in line with Public Health rules. Should this be the case then the home learning programme would start for them, and we would request engagement with this wherever possible, so that we can minimise any disruption to their learning.

I can confirm that, thankfully, the vast majority of Fox Wood staff have now received their first vaccination dose as part of the Warrington scheme – this should also help to reduce potential transmission, and to protect our staff from becoming seriously ill.

In terms of testing for Fox Wood pupils and our students at college we will NOT be testing on-site. There are a variety of reasons for this, with my main concerns being that introducing on-site testing could be extremely confusing and distressing for students within the school and college environment, how much this could unsettle them, and the messages it gives around actions towards them that they should accept from anyone within a school or college environment. We have, however, requested via the DfE scheme additional test kits for any of our High School or College aged students to have access to at home should any families request this. At this time, we are still trying to source sufficient test kits (and we are prioritising staff, given that staff who accept tests will definitely use them.) However please let your child's class teacher know if you would be interested in receiving test kits for your child should we receive the additional test kits. Alternatively it seems that parents and carers are able to order tests directly, to be collected at a local rapid test collection site or delivered to you at home, which may be easier for some of you? In order to find the relevant information please google:

Schools Testing Order Covid rapid lateral tests

Or use the link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>


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I do appreciate that there are lots of mixed messages and contradictory news articles about all of the above, and I have raised once again that most of the advice and documentation does not give specific consideration to Special Schools or our communities, however I hope that this helps to clarify a few matters from Fox Wood's perspective and offers you some reassurance.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucinda Duffy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lucinda Duffy
Headteacher