

The Green, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 3AG
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Devizes School
 & Sixth Form College
 Raising aspirations, building futures

6th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As 2021 starts to draw to a close, I want to take this advance opportunity to wish you a fantastic Christmas and restful holidays. Thank you to all of our parents and carers for the huge amount of support we have received over the course of the last 4 months. We are very much looking forward to a successful, happy and healthy 2022.

To keep you up to date, there are some important key messages below for your information:

KEY MESSAGE 1: Asymptomatic Covid Testing continues

From the 4th January 2022, we will be delivering the testing programme as required under government guidance. In order to keep the school as COVID secure as possible, students for whom we have consent will receive 1 test from trained and NHS certified testing staff on site in our school testing centre. These will be completed on the dates outlined in the table below. After this test, providing that the student tests are negative and they have no COVID symptoms, they will return to lessons in school the next day. For those for whom we do not have consent, students will return to normal lessons on the date specified below.

Students will return to school as follows:

Year group	Covid testing (20-minute appointment and then depart)	Return to lessons at school (full day in school for all students)
7	Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Thursday 6 th January 2022
8	Thursday 6 th January 2022	Friday 7 th January 2022
9	Thursday 6 th January 2022	Friday 7 th January 2022
10	Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Thursday 6 th January 2022
11	Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Wednesday 5 th January 2022
12	Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Wednesday 5 th January 2022
13	Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Wednesday 5 th January 2022

Even if you have previously notified us, as per the email sent to you last week, please can you use the following link to **register consent or decline consent** for your child. This form needs to be completed for **every** child that attend Devizes School. We will not be issuing tests to any student where consent has not been given through this form, even if you have filled in forms in the past. Any questions please contact office@devizes.wilts.sch.uk

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=lrMBCI2icEyjHVjwGPvDb0wsxtp_sVEikuWnl4NIOZUNzi5U0VPMFdMOVNFMFNBTJXQ0JPMki2TS4u

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Students do not need to be in school uniform and can make their own way to or from school if this is more convenient, provided they return straight home after their test is complete and this is monitored by parents. Students should not gather in groups prior to or after their test. On this day, students will not be able to use school transport to and from school as they will not be able to stay in school after their test, or arrive before their test is due, so alternative transport will be needed.

When students are not in school during this period, they will be expected to complete subject specific work either via SatchelOne (Show My Homework) or in the form of live TEAMS lessons. More details will follow in a year specific letter soon which will give you the exact timings of the testing day and where students should be dropped off and collected.

KEY MESSAGE 2: Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from their date of return in the table above.

The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- Parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school.
- The ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

If you feel that your child may require additional support with the return to school, please contact your child's tutor or pastoral team in the first instance.

In addition, we are aware that the situation surrounding the new COVID Omicron variant remains fluid and that guidance and subsequent processes are subject to change. Should you have any questions or need to report any absence (including COVID related absences), please contact attendance@devizes.wilts.sch.uk as soon as possible.

KEY MESSAGE 3: Uniform & Equipment

Expectations are very high at Devizes School, and this is reflected in our students' appearance, as well as in their attitudes. Our uniform forms a vital part of school identity, and we expect every student to be dressed correctly, at all times. For students who are not in correct uniform, we now have our successfully established SMART START process which enables all students to have access to full uniform at the start of every day.

Likewise, we also expect our students to come equipped ready to learn. The Christmas period offers a good opportunity for students to re-equip themselves with the required items as follows:

- Blue/black pens to write with (more than one)
- A green pen for feedback sessions
- A pencil
- A ruler
- A scientific calculator
- All relevant exercise books for the day, depending on their timetable

As always, if you require any support in these areas, do please get in touch with the school, and always communicate with us if there is any genuine reason why your child does not meet our standards on a particular day.

One last piece of information is that our last day of term plans include a half day closure for all students. Please note that students will finish school at 12.40pm on Friday 17th December.

Finally, I wish you a good last few days of term and a relaxing and safe Christmas holiday when it gets here. Please do continue to use LFTs to test twice a week. We look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "S" followed by the name "Marshall".

Miss S Marshall
Associate Principal