



# Ark Acton Academy

10/12/2021

Dear parents and carers,

I wanted to write to you all before the end of this term. Whilst the academy newsletter will be published next week and will detail all of the great things our students have been doing; I wanted to write to talk about the latest government announcement concerning the pandemic. With the Omicron variant and increased COVID-19 cases, the government has implemented their Plan B arrangements in England to reduce transmission.

Providing face-to-face learning to our pupils is a priority, and your child must continue to come to school unless they are unwell or are required to self-isolate by NHS Test & Trace.

As ever, our priority is the safety of pupils and staff. We have an Outbreak Management Plan to ensure we are well prepared for future changes.

We ask students and staff to continue testing for COVID-19 using a rapid lateral flow test at least every 3-4 days. We will continue to provide tests, but you can also order and [collect](#) these from a local pharmacy. Please ensure test results are reported to the NHS and us. In addition, we are now asking parents, carers, and other visitors to take a rapid lateral flow test before any visit to the school, e.g., before attending a meeting with a staff member.

We encourage you to follow Government guidance on testing over the holidays. This means taking a rapid lateral flow test any day when you will be in a high-risk environment (such as a crowded or enclosed space) or before visiting people who are at high risk of severe illness if they get COVID-19.

We are also looking at school events such as parents' evenings, assemblies, parties, and performances. We have taken the difficult decision to postpone our winter concert until next term but we are going ahead with our Year 9 museum trip on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. In order to minimise the risks, we are travelling to and from the museum by coach.

All secondary schools are required to provide an on-site test for pupils on return in January, these tests will be carried out on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. Please note that if you have already given consent for your child to be tested in school, we will assume you agree for them to be tested in school at the beginning of the Spring term. If for any reason you wish to rescind the consent you have already given you will be required to email us at [info@arkacton.org](mailto:info@arkacton.org) no later than 10am on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January stating the full name and form of your child, so we can ensure they are not tested.

Once again, I thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes

Oli Knight  
Principal