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Dear Parent,

I hope that you and your children are enjoying a well-earned rest and are able to enjoy the Christmas break, despite the worldwide restrictions that are in place. I am writing to update you on changes that will have an effect on everyone when they return to school.

### **Asymptomatic Testing in College**

From January, the Government intends to provide test kits to enable weekly testing of College staff, helping to identify anyone who is asymptomatic. In addition, and more importantly, pupils and staff who have been identified as close contacts of those that have tested positive, and would therefore normally have to self-isolate, will have access to daily testing (results in 30 minutes). This means that there will be no need to isolate, unless the test comes back as positive. However, a negative test result does not remove the risk of transmission (false negatives may be returned), so it is essential that everyone continues to follow the school's usual regime to minimise infection. Effectively, we will continue to operate in the same way as we did last term. If there is a delay in the test kits arriving, then self-isolation will take place as normal.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges)

### **Test to Release for International Travel**

If you are travelling back into the UK from a country that is not on the travel corridor list, [www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors) the Government has reduced the quarantine time down to ten days. In addition, they have introduced a scheme where you can choose for a private Covid-19 test, which can be taken five days after leaving the country not on the formal corridor list. If the result is negative, you will be able to stop self-isolating. To take part in the scheme you need to book a test with a private test provider:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-private-providers-of-coronavirus-testing/list-of-private-providers-of-coronavirus-testing#test-to-release-for-international-travel](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-private-providers-of-coronavirus-testing/list-of-private-providers-of-coronavirus-testing#test-to-release-for-international-travel)

and opt into the scheme on the passenger locator forms: [www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk](https://www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk). You must book the test before you travel to England.

[www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-test-to-release-for-international-travel](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-test-to-release-for-international-travel)



# Ellesmere

A 7 – 18 Coeducational School

**Lent Term 2021.**

There are no changes to any arrangements that have already been communicated to you with regards to next term.

Merry Christmas.

Kind regards,

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