



6th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year for 2022! I hope that you have all had a restful and enjoyable break and that like me, you are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

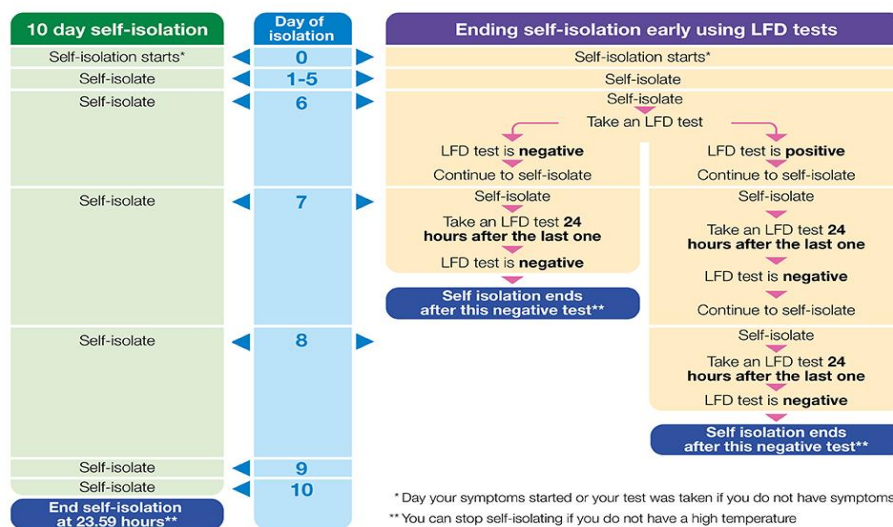
It was around this date in 2021 that we were directed at virtually no notice, to close the School physically due to COVID 19, so I am delighted that this will certainly not be the case this year. I agree wholeheartedly with the premise that the best place for our young people to be is in school, in front of their teachers and among their friends, and we are really looking forward to welcoming all pupils back on **Monday 10th January**.

However, I thought it important to write to update you on a few measures that will be in place to ensure that we can remain open with as much confidence as possible:

1. All AGSB staff and 6th form students have been asked to take two Lateral Flow Tests (LFD) at home. The first up to 3 days before the return date and the second either on the evening or morning before they return on January 10th.
2. Pupils in year 7-11 should take one LFD test up to 3 days prior to return and we will be doing a single LFD on pupils with consent on the first day back (and on the morning of Tuesday 11th January). Mr Soulsby (Assistant Head) has already sent the rota for testing out to staff and parents. Please find attached to this SchoolComms information from Mr Soulsby which was sent to all Parents and Carers on 20.12.2021. This provides important information about the return to school in January and the testing requirements for all pupils. ***Please be aware of this change to the guidance: "Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site through an asymptomatic test site (ATS) or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection"***. The testing rota will include 10 minutes of waiting outside post-test. Students are advised to bring a warm coat, hat, and gloves.
3. We would also ask you to continue to ask your children to do twice weekly at-home tests and to keep us informed of any positive outcomes at covid@agsb.co.uk . This is so we can ensure our database is up to date. We have a good supply of home testing kits in school, and spare kits can be requested by pupils through their tutors.



4. Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.



5. It is clear that vaccination is playing a key role. If your child is in the age bracket and at the stage in the process where a second or booster vaccination is accessible, then please can you encourage them to get this done if they have not already done so.
6. **Face coverings:** you will have doubtless picked up in the media that the Government has asked that these be worn in classrooms as well as in communal areas for all pupils (unless exempt). At present, this is seen as a temporary measure, due for review at the end of the month. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed. **It is therefore essential that your child brings to school their own face coverings to wear in school each day.**
7. Visitors to the school will be asked to wear face coverings inside school communal areas and parents are asked to kindly take a LFD test before attending any in-school meetings or indoor events.

It goes without saying that we will continue to implement all the hygiene, ventilation and other measures that have now become so much the norm. That said, it would be unrealistic to not anticipate some absences of staff and pupils, but we will strive to minimise any disruption to teaching and learning caused by this.



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham,

Cheshire, WA14 2RS

Telephone: 0161 928 0858

agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk

www.agsb.co.uk

Head Master: Mr G A Wright M.A. (Hons) FRCA

We are very much looking forward to the term and year ahead and we will do all we can to make sure that they start as close to normally as possible.

Yours faithfully

Mr G. A. Wright
Head Master