



## BLACKMINSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear parents and carers,

It's been lovely to welcome students back to school after the Christmas break. I have a few pieces of information that I need to share with you this week:

### COVID measures in school

Thank you for your support for our COVID safety measures. The overwhelming majority of students are co-operating with our requests to wear masks when indoors. This will be reviewed after the Government's planned announcement on January 26<sup>th</sup>, and I'll be writing to you as soon as possible after that to inform you of any changes.

### COVID testing

I'd particularly like to thank parents of Year 7 and 8 students for supporting our staggered start yesterday to facilitate onsite testing. I'm delighted that the overwhelming majority of eligible students were tested – this is very reassuring for students, families and staff as we return to school after the holiday. Please can I encourage all students to continue with twice-weekly lateral flow tests (LFTs) at home. This enables us to identify cases where someone doesn't have any symptoms, but is still able to pass the virus on to others.

### Confirmatory PCR tests after positive lateral flow tests

I've been told by the Department for Education that confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

### Information on COVID vaccination for 12-15 year olds

Young people aged 12 to 15 in England are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Parents can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the NHS booking system <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Kind regards,

Linda McQuone  
Executive Headteacher

