



NORTHFIELD ACADEMY

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Dear Parent / Carer,

I am delighted to welcome back staff and pupils after the festive break. I hope that the holidays were a time of rest and relaxation for you and your families. I write with some important updates and information:

Testing and Self-isolation

As you will be aware some rules have changed but anyone with symptoms of Covid-19 must still book a PCR test and self-isolate until the results are known and then follow public health advice about how long to continue isolation. In most cases this advice will be that, if they take an LFD test on day 6 and it is negative and another test 24 hours later on day 7 and it is negative, and providing they do not have a fever, they can leave isolation after the negative day 7 test. If they have a positive LFD on day 6 or 7, they must self-isolate for the full 10 days.

Symptoms are defined by the NHS as:

- a high temperature
- new, continuous cough
- change in sense of taste and smell.

Young people and school staff are being encouraged to continue with twice-a-week LFD testing.

If an LFD test is positive and the young person has symptoms, they should also book a PCR test and self-isolate until results are known and advice received about end date of isolation. If the PCR test is positive they will have to isolate for at least 7 days. If they take an LFD test on day 6 and it is negative and another test 24 hours later on day 7 and it is negative, and providing they do not have a fever, they can leave isolation after the negative day 7 test. If they have a positive LFD test on day 6 or 7, they must self-isolate for the full 10 days.

If your child has a **positive LFD test but does not display any of the COVID-19 symptoms** they must self-isolate immediately for 10 days but do not need to book a PCR test to confirm the diagnosis. As above, if they take an LFD test on day 6 and it is negative and another test on day 7 and it is negative, and providing they do not have a fever, they can leave isolation after the negative day 7 test. If they have a positive LFD test on day 6 or 7, they must self-isolate for the full 10 days.

Household/close contacts

Children under the age of 18 and 4 months and adults who are fully vaccinated (2 doses and booster at least 14 days previously) who are identified as close contacts or live with someone who has tested positive can now take 7 daily LFD tests and report the results instead of self-isolating.

Aspire to be outstanding

Provided tests are taken daily, they are all negative, and your child is not displaying any symptoms, they can continue to attend school. If during this time they have a positive LFD test or begin to show symptoms they should not attend school and should follow the advice above. If they are not taking the daily tests, they must self-isolate for 10 days. They do not need to take a PCR test.

Parents and carers will continue to get a letter notifying them if there has been a positive case in their child's year group. The letter offers advice on symptoms to watch out for and anything you need to do. Please continue to keep us informed about positive test results and to follow all public health advice. We also appreciate you encouraging and supporting your child(ren) to follow the mitigations in place in school: this includes **providing them with a face covering for each day**.

Senior Phase Study Leave

Senior pupils (S4-S6) will be on study leave from Monday 17th January until Friday 28th January inclusive to provide an opportunity for revision and consolidation of knowledge prior to an assessment period beginning on Monday 31st January. Any pupils requiring access to a chrome book should contact Mr. Simpson or their Guidance teacher to arrange this. Some useful links to access resources can be found below, in addition to physical materials supplied by teachers, subject specific links and work which will be shared via google classrooms:

- BBC Bitesize - National 4: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zp3d7ty>
- BBC Bitesize - National 5: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z6gw2hv>
- BBC Bitesize - Higher: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zkdqxb>
- National Parent Forum for Scotland - Nationals in a Nutshell; National 4: <https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/in-a-nutshell-series/nationals-in-a-nutshell-series/national-4/>
- National Parent Forum for Scotland - Nationals in a Nutshell; National 5: <https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/in-a-nutshell-series/nationals-in-a-nutshell-series/national-5/>
- National Parent Forum for Scotland - Higher Revision Guides: <https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/revision-guides/higher/>
- Scholar: <https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/>
- SQA Past Papers: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm>
- SQA Understanding Standards: <https://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/>

North East Scotland College

The following is for the parents and carers of young people who attend North East Scotland College (NESCOL) for one or more of their courses.

College buildings will be closed from 5 pm on Friday 17 December 2021. Students were due to return to blended learning on Monday 10 January 2022, however, this is now not possible.

The plan is to resume blended learning on Monday 17 January 2022, with a return to the on-campus activity that has been safely and successfully delivered during the session to date. This will be reviewed by the Leadership Team of the College on 6 January 2022, in line with the latest Scottish Government guidance and any change will be communicated through the usual channels.

Free Travel for under 21 year olds

From Monday 10 January 2022, 5-21 year olds in Scotland can apply for free bus travel! You will need to ensure your Young Scot card is up-to-date to allow you to access this. If you are in S4 - S6 and undertake classes at city campus or NESCol courses, or hope to do so in the future, you will need your updated card to access free bus travel. Your child's Accord card will not work for this scheme. Under 16's require the parent/carer to apply. Over 16's can apply for themselves.

You can access more information and apply using the following link: <https://young.scot/the-young-scot-card/aberdeen>

Yours sincerely,



Douglas Watt
Head Teacher