

DUNEDIN SCHOOL

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Dunedin School Update 15 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, just a few days until we reach the end of term, and everyone heads off for a thoroughly well-deserved rest.

We did not expect to be beginning this Christmas holiday with the current level of uncertainty over the progress of covid, however, there is important information we need to share with you before we tell you about end-of-term arrangements.

As you all know, the new Omicron variant of covid is highly transmissible, and this has resulted in revised health protection measures, particularly around isolation.

So, in addition to continuing with the things we have all become used to (wearing masks, making sure the building is well ventilated, maintaining physical distance and frequently washing hands), It is vital that we now follow the revised procedures for self-isolation detailed below, which came into effect this week:

When to self-isolate

- If anyone in a pupil's household has symptoms of Covid-19, the pupil **must** stay at home, self-isolate and the person who has symptoms must book a PCR test
- If the PCR test result is negative, the pupil can return to school immediately
- If the PCR test result is positive, **then all of the household must stay at home for 10 days even if they have been vaccinated or are under 18 years old**
- Others in the household should also book a PCR test but even if this is negative, they must continue to self-isolate for 10 days

Please let the school know as soon as possible if the household is in isolation as it may have an impact on other pupils and staff. Also, it will enable us to give what support we can, especially in getting IT to a pupil if they need it, and posting work for them if they are well enough to access it.

LFD testing for pupils

- Attached is a letter regarding the COVID-19 asymptomatic testing programme for schools, and a poster with information about testing
- Secondary school pupils should continue to take LFD tests regularly, including during the holidays and especially before returning on Wednesday 5th January.
- Chris has spoken to most of you in recent weeks, but if you have any questions, or need more tests, please get in touch before Friday.

We know that this ongoing uncertainty is difficult for everyone, so thank you for your help and for continuing to put up with all the disruption it causes to pupils' lives at school.

Senior pupils who are working towards exams this year may be especially worried. SQA are continuing to work towards delivery of exams in 2022, but they do have detailed contingency plans in place if exams cannot go ahead. We will keep you informed of any news from them.

End of Term Activities

Despite all of this ongoing uncertainty, we still hope to have fun on the final day of term, and also mark Anis's final day with us. Pupils finish at 12 noon on Friday.

We will be looking forward to seeing everyone back at school on **Wednesday 5th January**. If there are any changes to the guidelines for schools during the holidays, then we will get in touch before pupils return.

In the meantime, as always, please just phone or email if you have any questions, or are concerned about any of the revised guidance we've noted above.

We really hope you all have a lovely festive break, and manage to rest, relax, have some fun and – most importantly – stay well.

Kind regards
Staff at Dunedin