

# DUNEDIN SCHOOL

*Delivers unique education to individuals*

## Dunedin School update 3 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

A very happy new year to you all! We hope you have managed to rest, stay well and enjoy the holiday.

As you know, we start the new term this coming **Wednesday, 5 January**, and we are very much looking forward to seeing everyone. However, at present, with the Omicron variant spreading rapidly, we are once again in uncertain times.

So, we are emailing to remind you of the following to ensure we can keep everyone as safe as possible as we get back to school:

### Lateral Flow Testing

Most pupils collected a supply of lateral flow tests before the holidays. We are urging everyone – staff and pupils - to take a test on Tuesday, or on Wednesday morning *before* coming to school, and to report the result. Continued, rigorous testing is vital to helping us keep the school Covid-free.

### Isolation Procedures

It is really important that we all follow the most up-to-date guidance on isolation. At present, there is no change to the guidance issued just before the holidays, as follows:

- If a **pupil or 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 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.

Unfortunately, the current isolation procedures could have an impact on staffing in school. If staff are forced to isolate for 10 days, there may be some unavoidable changes as teachers juggle teaching from home (if they are able) and teaching in school.

We would be very grateful if you could discuss this with your son or daughter. Being prepared might help to alleviate some anxieties. We will also discuss it with them in school this week, and offer what reassurance we can.

### **Infection Prevention**

We will continue to do everything we can to minimise the risk of spreading infection. Here is a reminder of the current measures we have in place:

- Wearing masks in class, and whilst moving about the school, unless exempt
- Regular hand sanitising
- Enhanced cleaning
- Increased ventilation

The weather for the latter half of the week is forecast to be a bit colder, so please encourage your young person to wear plenty layers.

### **Other News**

There are a few other things to tell you, aside from continued Covid-related restrictions!

### **Staff**

Pupils and staff had a lovely last day of term, but were obviously sad to say goodbye to Anis, who made such an impression on all of us.

However, most pupils have had a chance to meet Amanda, who is taking over the role of Biology teacher, and we are looking forward to welcoming her to the Dunedin team. Amanda will begin on Thursday 6 January.

### **Timetable Changes**

Changes to staff have meant some unavoidable changes to the timetable. Rosie will give pupils their new timetables on Wednesday morning before classes start, and pupils can always talk to their tutor if they have any concerns.

Yet again, there is a lot of information to take in here. Pupils have done so well up to this point, with your support, and we just hope that we can get through these next few weeks with minimum disruption.

However, we know that some pupils may be worried coming back after the holiday, so please, as always, get in touch with us, and let us know what we can do to support them as much as we can. We sincerely hope that 2022 is – eventually - going to be kinder to everyone.

Kind regards  
Staff at Dunedin