

January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our parents and carers a Happy New Year for 2022. I hope your family had a restful break and have returned eager to learn in what is such an important period especially for Years 11 and 13.

### Face coverings

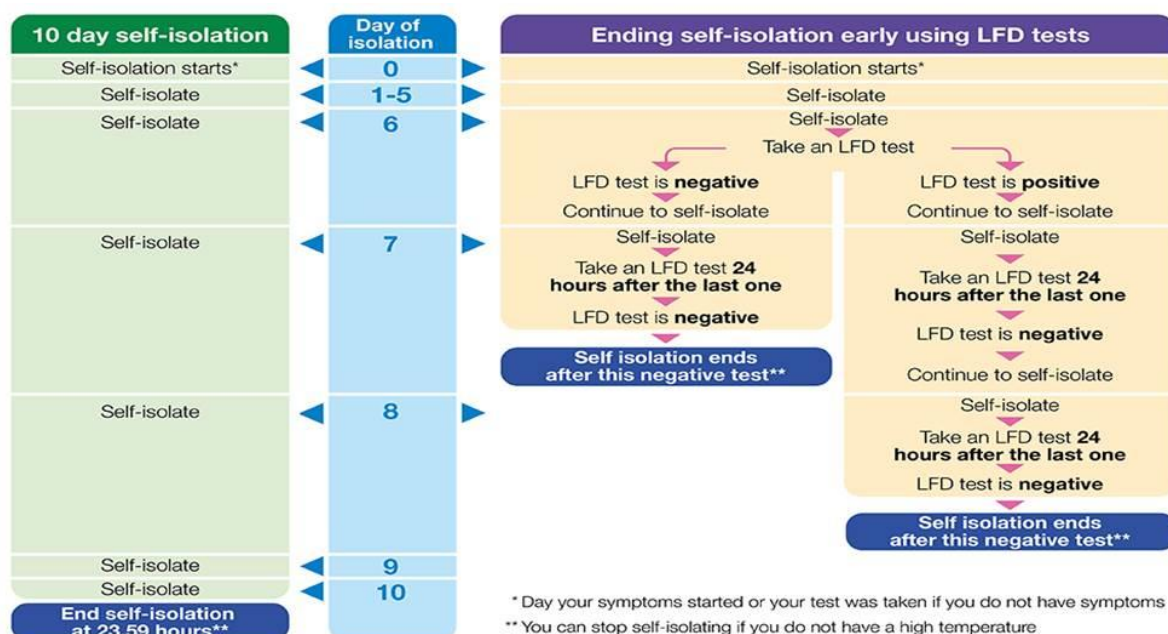
Face to face teaching is the most effective way of ensuring we can teach the full curriculum and it is essential that we as a community of schools do everything possible to maintain this to support pupils learning and their aspirations moving forward. This includes every pupil wearing a face covering, unless they have an exemption, in the school buildings with the only exception being when they are eating to reduce transmission. This will help keep fellow pupils, teachers and support staff in school and teaching in the classroom, something all of us missed so much during lockdown. Thank you to the vast majority of parents and carers who have provided coverings for their children and this is essential as we only have limited supplies of masks to give out on a daily basis. **Please support your school with this small measure which will be reviewed on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and do not contact Headteachers regarding this because as state schools we are following recommendations by the DFE.**

Please take time to read the [updated guidance for parents and carers](#) from the Department for Education, which includes a section on circumstances on where pupils would not be able to wear face coverings.

### Testing

Thank you to all parents and carers who have taken up the school-based test this week before their child started lessons. I would also like to thank our testing teams who have worked incredibly hard to set up the process again and ensure all pupils have been back in lessons learning on a face to face basis this week. **From now on testing twice a week at home and reporting the result to your school is crucial in our battle to maintain all in school so please ensure you plan this into your routines at home.** Please see the letters sent to you from individual Trust schools for links to the reporting forms but it normally only takes a few minutes.

**Please see the diagram below to support you regarding self- isolation after a positive Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Test**



**Executive Headteacher/CEO** Mr Ian Raikes BA (Hons) NPQH NPQEL

**Southport Learning Trust** Fleetwood Road, Southport PR9 9TF

**T** 01704 339870

**E** [enquiries@southportlearningtrust.org](mailto:enquiries@southportlearningtrust.org)

**W** [www.southportlearningtrust.org](http://www.southportlearningtrust.org)

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### **Pupils without symptoms returning after 10 days if their lateral flow is still positive**

Pupils may return to their school and should not take any more LFD tests after the 10th day of their isolation period even if they have a positive LFD test result. This is because they are unlikely to be infectious after the 10th day of their isolation period. If they still have a high temperature after 10 days or are otherwise unwell, they should stay at home and seek medical advice.

### **When should pupils return after a negative Lateral Flow Test?**

Pupils can take an LFD test from 6 days after the day their symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end self-isolation immediately after the second negative test result. Pupils should stop testing after they have had 2 consecutive negative test results and can return to their education setting on the 7<sup>th</sup> day if they have tested negative in the morning.

### **Pupils who have had Covid in the past 90 days**

A common question has been about pupils who have had Covid in the past 90 days and should they test. These pupils are now strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing.

### **A PCR test is no longer required after a positive Lateral Flow Test**

It was announced yesterday that confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday, 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives positive lateral flow results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

I hope your child has an excellent term and thank you for working in partnership with your school to navigate through this period with as little disruption as possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'I. Raikes'.

Ian Raikes  
Chief Executive Officer

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