

Ashfield Girls' High School

Hollywood Road
Belfast, BT4 2LY

Principal: Mrs Louise Hanvey BSc (Hons) PGCE, PQHNI, PGDH



4 January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you and your family have had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Term begins on Wednesday 5 January. While we are hopeful that face-to-face teaching will not be disrupted over the coming weeks, we have contingency plans in place.

Staff absence, due to Covid 19, is likely to impact negatively on our ability to maintain face-to-face teaching for all classes. This issue has been exacerbated by heavy demand for substitute teachers across all schools.

At present, we will operate normally from Wednesday 5 January. All staff have been asked to take a Lateral Flow test before the start of term. As I write this letter, we currently have four teaching staff absent this week due to Covid 19, in addition to other absences.

To minimize the risk of infection being spread in school, particularly with the Omicron variant being so easily transmitted and roughly one third of infected people being asymptomatic, all pupils should take a Lateral Flow Test this evening or Wednesday morning and if a positive result is obtained a PCR test should be organised; with your daughter staying off school as per PHA guidance. Any pupil wishing to sign up for the Lateral Flow Test Packs can contact Mrs White located at the medical room on their return to school. As always, if your daughter has Covid 19 symptoms she should get tested and follow PHA guidance.

If we are in the likely situation of not being able to source substitute teachers to cover for all absent staff, we will aim to operate a rota to close classes in Year 8, 9 or 10. As a general rule, if one teacher is absent and no substitute teacher can be found then one class will need to be asked to stay at home for that day. If this happens information will be sent via SIMS Parent App and it will be posted on the school twitter account and website. We aim to protect Years 11, 12, 13 and 14 and hope that as we navigate January these year groups will not be impacted by any disruption.

Please be assured that your daughter's learning and wellbeing remain our priorities and decisions made, always have this in mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs Louise Hanvey
Principal

