

5th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

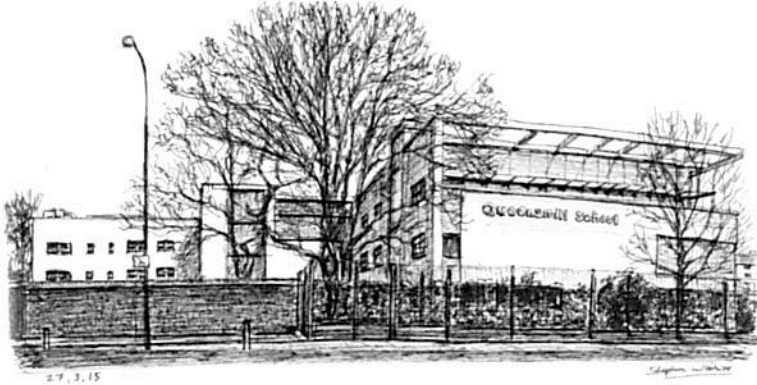
Happy New Year and welcome back to school! I hope you were able to enjoy the holiday with loved ones, despite the given situation.

As we begin the new term, I would like to provide you with an update on Covid-19 within the Queensmill School context. I will discuss self-isolation protocols and testing, potential class closures, access to home testing through LFTs (Lateral Flow Test), and the upcoming vaccination programme taking place at school.



Self-isolation protocols and testing

- Staff and students who test positive on an LFT or PCR must self-isolate immediately for 10 days. The self-isolation period includes the day the symptoms started (or the day you had the positive result, if you did not have symptoms). The staff or student can leave self-isolation early if they take a LFT on day 6 and day 7 of the self-isolation period (24 hours apart) and both tests come back negative.
- If the positive result is on an LFT, please book a PCR immediately to confirm the result. We have a very small stock of PCR tests at school, so if you are having difficulty getting an appointment for a PCR, please contact the school and we can arrange for one to be sent home.
- Close contacts that are under 18 years and 6 months of age will not need to isolate, but will need to engage in daily LFTs for 7 days in order to attend school. Proof of the negative LFT should be sent to the class teacher or covid@queensmill.lbhf.sch.uk
- Close contacts that are over 18 years and 6 months of age will need to engage in daily LFTs for 7 days if they are fully vaccinated. If they are not fully vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days.



Potential class closures

- We welcome students back to school on Wednesday 5th January 2022 and have no intention of closing the school as a result of Covid-19.
- We will put measures in place to mitigate the spread of the virus when and as needed
 - Facial coverings for staff in communal areas
 - Identifying close contacts and following through on protocol taking in to account their age and vaccination status
 - Reintroduce a bubble system
 - Encourage the use of hand gel
 - Open doors and windows where safe to allow for maximum ventilation
- From a national perspective, many industries will be affected in terms of mass staff absences, including the education sector. If we experience a severe staff shortage and are unable to ensure the health and safety of your child, we may need to close the class until we can regain a suitable staffing level for that class.

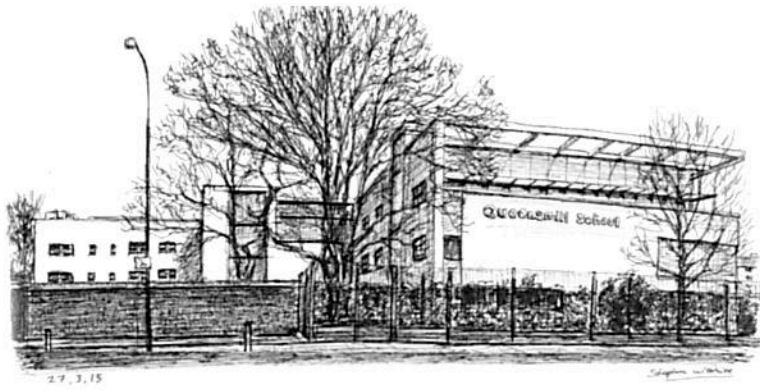


Access to home testing through LFTs (Lateral Flow Tests)

- In order to further mitigate the spread of the virus, we are encouraging all students and staff to engage in lateral flow testing twice per week in order to target asymptomatic cases.
- We request that the testing is done on a Sunday night and Wednesday night and positive cases are reported to covid@queensmill.lbhf.sch.uk so that the appropriate action can be taken
- If you would like to engage in weekly lateral flow testing, please inform the class teacher so test kits can be sent home.

Vaccination Programme onsite at Queensmill School

- Vaccinations will be offered for students (ages 12+) onsite at Queensmill School on Tuesday 18th January through the NHS vaccination team.
- This is for the first or second dose of the vaccine
- Consent forms for this will be going home this week.



Queensmill School

1 Askham Road, Shepherd's Bush, W12 0NW
Tel: 020 8740 8112

Executive Headteacher: Freddie Adu
Headteacher: Aymeline Bel
Deputy Headteacher: Robert Armstrong

office@queensmill.lbhf.sch.uk
www.queensmillschool.com



If you would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

Neeta Singh

Deputy Head and Covid Coordinator, Queensmill School

