



5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As previously communicated, onsite asymptomatic testing of students begins next week as we welcome students back to school from Monday 8th March. If you have consented to your child being tested, please find details below which outline the arrangements and schedule for testing.

Firstly we would encourage parent and carers to transport their own children to school, avoid sharing lifts and using public/school transport on the first day of return/testing. However, due to the wide geographical spread of our students we appreciate this may not be possible, especially for those students who travel on the school managed bus service. As a result, we plan to test students who have travelled on the school buses first, so those students will be met upon arrival to school and proceed directly to the testing site which is based in the sports hall. Once registration and testing is complete, they will then proceed to either their form time or lesson depending on the time. This will be for their first test only. Their second and third tests will be with their year group.

All other students should enter school in the usual way, from 8.20am, proceeding straight to their form room for registration. Students will then be tested by year group in form order. Teaching staff will be aware and understand lessons will be disrupted during the testing period. Support staff will also be on hand to direct students to and from the testing site.

Upon arrival at the testing site, students will be given a registration card which will have been pre-registered for them using the information supplied on the consent form. They will be asked to wait in a short queue, 2m from the next student, wearing their face covering, until a testing bay becomes available. There will be instructions about how to self-swab whilst waiting and a member of staff on hand to answer any questions students might have.

They will then be shown into a testing booth and guided through the process of self-swabbing by a trained test assistant. Please note that students will be asked to swab both sides of the back of their throat/tonsils and one nostril. Please refer to the attached instructions and also to the video sent to students from Mr Woods on how to conduct a test via this link at the bottom of this letter.

Once the test is complete, the student will exit the testing site and return to their lesson. Once the test results have been processed, which takes approximately 30 minutes, results will be entered onto the NHS Test and Trace website and a text and/or email will be sent to the contact details provided on the consent form.



Please note that in a small number of cases the communication of results by the NHS test and Trace system have not been reliable. If you do not receive notification of the test result on the day, you can contact school to advise them that this is the case and someone will call you back with the result. Please be reassured however, that **we will contact any parent/carer whose child has produced a positive result as soon as possible**, before the details are inputted into the NHS Test and Trace database and therefore before it is communicated by text or email. Students will also be notified immediately. Please be reassured therefore that if you do not receive a call, the test result is negative.

Students who receive a positive result, along with all members of their household (including members of support or childcare bubbles if this applies), will need to isolate for 10 days from the day of the test, so students will need to be collected and return home as soon as possible. Public Health England have stated that a confirmatory PCR test is not needed for tests done at an asymptomatic test site like school as it is a controlled environment.

Students whose test result is void (or inconclusive) will be asked to attend again the same day for the test to be repeated. However based on experience we expect this to be a rare event.

Students whose test result is negative will continue to attend lessons as usual.

Years 11 & 13 will then have their 2<sup>nd</sup> test during the day on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Years 10 & 12 on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March and Years 7, 8 & 9 on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final tests will then be conducted between Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March to allow the recommended 3-5 day gap between tests.

### **Home Testing Arrangements**

Once a student has taken their third on-site test, they will be provided with a test kit to start testing from home. Further details will follow nearer the time.

Please also note that in addition to test kits being given to students in school, the Government has recently announced that home test kits will be available to households and bubbles of school children and staff. These kits **will not** be distributed by schools and can be accessed as follows:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site information about sites locations and opening can be found in the following link <https://findcovid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- by ordering a home test kit online (this should be a last resort) <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>



If you have any further queries about the above, and you live in England, please call 119.  
Lines are open everyday 7am-11pm.

Below is a table of Frequently Asked questions which you may find useful. If you require any further information about testing, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

*Fleur MacCready*

Mrs Fleur MacCready  
School Business Manager

#### TESTING FAQs

Can I choose to test my child at home rather than them being tested in school?	Testing is voluntary. Home testing (provided by school) is conditional on students accessing onsite school testing first as this enables students to practise in a supervised setting before testing at home. If parents have access to tests from other sources, they can use these to test their child. Home test kits for students are not being delivered to school until later this month, to be distributed when onsite testing is completed.
If I have not consented to my child having a test at school, can they still have a home testing kit sent home?	It is only consenting students who are being tested at school and who will initially be provided with home testing kits because it is assumed that those that don't consent to on-site testing are doing so because they don't want to get tested for COVID-19.
Can other members of my household use the home tests provided?	Test kits provided by school are for student use only, enough for 2 tests a week for 3 weeks.  Increased asymptomatic testing for households and support bubbles of school students and staff will also start to be available shortly. These kits will not be distributed by schools and further information will follow.



How will I receive my child's results?	If your child has received a positive test result, we will contact you immediately by phone. Your child's test results will be sent to the email address and mobile phone number provided on the consent form. If you do not receive notification of the result on the day, you can contact school to advise and someone will call you back with the result.
Does my child need to go for a PCR test if their Lateral Flow test from school shows them as positive?	The advice from Public Health England is that if the lateral flow test is conducted within the school (controlled environment) the confirmatory PCR test is not required. If the lateral flow test is conducted at home then the confirmatory PCR test is required.
If my child has tested positive, how will they be informed?	Your child will be informed personally by a member of staff. Parents will receive a phone call advising that they will need to come and collect their child.
How long will my child need to self isolate for if they test positive for COVID?	In line with national guidance, your child will be required to isolate for 10 days. School will inform you of their return date to school. Remote Learning will be provided as detailed in our Remote Learning Plan.
How long will my child need to self isolate for if they are considered to be a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID?	In line with national guidance, your child will be required to isolate for 10 days. School will inform you of their return date to school. Remote Learning will be provided as detailed in our Remote Learning Plan.
How do I report to school if my child has tested positive for COVID?	You will need to click on the 'Reporting a case of COVID' tab on the school website and complete the required details on the form as soon as possible to enable school to begin contact tracing. <a href="https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TQCEKBxgKE67QeEw_TRPICEGUr-8xJpopjFnlvktNUNjVIUVIXMERHWUZPTzFUNDdCWFAQ1Mkk1Ri4u">https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TQCEKBxgKE67QeEw_TRPICEGUr-8xJpopjFnlvktNUNjVIUVIXMERHWUZPTzFUNDdCWFAQ1Mkk1Ri4u</a>
How do I report to school if my child is displaying symptoms for COVID?	You will need to phone school to advise that they are absent and they will need to be taken for a PCR test as soon as possible.
When will my child receive their Home Testing kit?	These will be distributed to students after their 3 <sup>rd</sup> on site test.