

2nd March 2021

Dear parents and carers

I am writing with further details regarding testing next week and also the return of students to school as promised.

Plan for Testing

Students will take three lateral flow device (LFD) tests, the first of which will happen prior to students coming back to school, with the second test taking place three to five days later, and the third test three to five days after that. Students arriving for their **first test** should report to the **Sports Hall via the bottom car park**. They will be greeted by a member of staff and asked to line up socially distanced. Students will be let into the Sports Hall when a testing bay becomes available and should observe social distancing throughout their test. The Sports Hall will operate on a one way system and students should follow this and any directions of staff whilst on site. Once their first test is complete they will leave via an exit into the bottom car park. If you are dropping off your child for their test I politely ask that you remain in your car and do not enter the school premises. Students should then return home to continue online learning. The second and third test will take place during their normal school day and you will receive a text and/or email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Please see below the testing information for your child's first test.

We will be providing a video walk-through of the Academy testing process later this week, to ensure students know what to expect prior to their first test.

Please note that we have removed staggered start times but students should still access school through their designated entrance. If your child receives a negative test result please ensure they return to school in full uniform as per the schedule below.

Year	Date of first test (to return home after)	First day in Academy
Year 13	Thursday 4 th March 9am – 11am	Monday 8 th March 8.45am via Reception Entrance
Year 12	Thursday 4 th March 1pm – 3pm	Monday 8 th March 8.45am via Reception Entrance
Year 11	Friday 5 th March 9am – 11am	Monday 8 th March 8.45am via 3A Entrance
Year 7	Monday 8 th March 10am – 12pm	Tuesday 9 th March 8.45am via KS3 Yard Technology Entrance
Year 8	Monday 8 th March 1pm – 3pm	Tuesday 9 th March 8.45am via KS4 Yard Atrium doors
Year 9	Tuesday 9 th March 10am – 12pm	Wednesday 10 th March 8.45am via 1A5 Entrance
Year 10	Tuesday 9 th March 1pm – 3pm	Wednesday 10 th March 8.45am via 4A Entrance

Students should be reminded they must not attend school if they have any of the following COVID symptoms:

- **Continuous cough**
- **Lost of taste and smell**

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- High temperature

For the first three tests students will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results from the lateral flow tests are delivered in around half an hour from testing. It is important that students are initially supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. Following these initial tests students will be provided with home testing kits to undertake twice weekly, it is hoped this will break links in transmission through identifying asymptomatic students and staff.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to undertake an additional PCR test at a local testing site. Students should self-isolate until the PCR result is confirmed. If positive isolation continues until expiry of the 10 days. Please follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. All other household members will also need to self-isolate in line with [Government guidance](#). In the event of students having to self-isolate they will immediately revert to the online learning that has been working well this term. We very much hope that this will not be necessary but, if we do, we are confident that we will be able to continue all students' learning from home if required. Once again, the support of parents in ensuring children access these resources will be vital.

Return to school requirements

Following the publication of the Department for Education's (DFE) guidance for reopening schools, we have now finalised our risk assessment so that we can reopen for everyone in line with the government's and scientists' advice. Please refer to our website for details. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the key priorities from 8th March.

- When inside school (**including corridors and classrooms**) students and staff must wear a face mask at all times.
- When students are in school, they will remain within their year group bubble. We will be avoiding any non-essential mixing of year groups.
- Students must only use the entrance and exit stated below for their year group. When entering the building students must clean their hands using the sanitiser stations provided at each entrance.
- Students will use the same entrance and exit each day.

As both a school and a Trust, we have adapted our Risk assessment for the presence of students on site to ensure the safety of all in our community- this can be found on our school website and also on the below link: <https://bit.ly/381XN0M>

Finally, we know that some students will feel apprehensive about returning to school after such a long time away. This is completely understandable and is something that we expect will be more widespread than one might think. We will therefore be taking steps to ensure that our pastoral support for each student allows for this and provides time and space for any worries or concerns to be addressed so that each student is able to enjoy being back at school. To support this further we have planned several induction activities to reassure students and outline our expectations on their return.

Kind regards



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