

24 August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 12 (2021-2022),

I am writing to explain the arrangements for the start of the autumn term 2021 for new Year 12 students (Year 11 in 2020-2021 - Pastoral Manager Ms Alexander).

In July the Government announced that secondary school students are expected to take two lateral flow tests at the start of the autumn term. The purpose of the lateral flow test is to check for asymptomatic coronavirus. If a student has asymptomatic coronavirus they are highly likely to pass the virus to others without realising they have the infection.

We have therefore arranged for your son/daughter to attend school for a lateral flow test on:

## **Wednesday 1 September 2021**

**Year 12 with surnames A to H at 1pm**

**Year 12 with surnames I to P at 2pm**

**Year 12 with surnames Q to Z at 3pm**

The tests will take place in the **Sports Hall at the Ealing Road site** (next to Alperton Underground Station). After the test, your son/daughter will not remain in school and will need to go home.

If your child has been tested in the past in school, you will **not** need to complete a COVID Test consent form. If your son/daughter has not been tested in the past, but you would like them to be tested in September, please arrive with your child and we will provide a paper copy which you will need to complete before the test is taken.

During the lateral flow test your son/daughter will use a cotton bud (swab) to collect moisture from their tonsils and nose. The moisture will then be added to chemicals to detect whether the virus is present. All tests are supervised by adult helpers. You can find more information about lateral flow tests [here](#). Please note that the lateral flow testing system is not in any way related to the vaccination programme and therefore does not involve injections. Please note that this test will be the first of two tests we are expected to administer in school.

It is extremely important that you **DO NOT** send your son/daughter to school if they are showing any symptoms of coronavirus. The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)



- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

You **MUST NOT** send your son/daughter to school if they have returned within the last 10 days from an overseas country which has been listed as [Red or Amber by the Government](#). If this is the case, call the school to explain which country has been visited and when you returned to the UK.

Provided the lateral flow test result is negative, your son/daughter will attend their first full day of school on **Friday 3 September**. Your son/daughter should arrive at 8:30am on this day. The school day will finish at 3:25pm. Please note that our term dates are available on the school website: <http://www.alperton.brent.sch.uk/our-school/key-information/school-times-and-dates/>

I very much look forward to greeting our students next week. I will also send parents and carers some important information about changes we have made to our school procedures to make sure we do as much as we can to keep all our students safe in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Gerard McKenna  
HEADTEACHER