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24 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to inform you that all Year 9 students will be able to return to lessons. Normal classroom lessons for Year 9 will resume on **Tuesday 9 March**.

However, before students return to lessons they are expected to take a lateral flow test. The purpose of the lateral flow test is to check for asymptomatic coronavirus. If a child 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:

9 KLNP: Tuesday 9 March at 8:30am

9 QRST: Tuesday 9 March at 9:30am

9 VWXY: Tuesday 9 March at 10:30am

After the test, your child will go to their normal lessons.

In order for us to conduct the test we will need you to complete a COVID Test consent form. The link to the consent form is in the student section of the MyEd app. You will also find a link to the form in the email accompanying this letter. If you do not complete the consent form your child will not be allowed to take the test.

During the lateral flow test your child will use a large cotton bud (swab) to collect moisture from their tonsils. 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 three tests we are expected to administer in school.

Please be aware that your child **must not** come to school on **Tuesday 9 March** if:

- They have any symptoms of coronavirus [high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste]
- They have arrived back in the UK from overseas in the last 10 days

Of course, your child will be expected to wear a face covering and adhere to social distancing rules at all times.

I very much look forward to seeing Year 9 once again next week; we are all very keen to get back to normal lessons for all our students.

Yours sincerely,



Gerard McKenna
HEADTEACHER