

25 February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

You will be aware that the government has announced that all children should return to school during the week commencing Monday 8th March. This is great news and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back between Monday 8th and Wednesday 10th March.

As part of the return, you will be aware that the testing of students for Covid is very strongly encouraged. We will be staggering the return of pupils to school to support testing.

<b>Year groups</b>	<b>Date of return to school</b>
Years 10, 11, 12 & 13	Monday 8th March 2021
Years 7 & 8	Tuesday 9th March 2021
Year 9	Wednesday 10th March 2021

Please complete the following testing consent form for your child if they are under 16. For students who are aged 16 or over, they should complete the consent form themselves. Further information relating to testing is attached to this letter.

- [Parent consent for students under 16 years of age](#)
- [Student consent if aged over 16](#)
- [Sixth Form student consent to Covid testing](#)

I very much look forward to welcoming our students back to school and will continue to communicate regularly with you to ensure that the return is as smooth as possible.

Yours faithfully

Mr F Turnbull  
Headteacher

# Further information about COVID testing

## Rationale for COVID testing

- Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. However tests are not compulsory, and students are not prevented from returning to school if they choose not to consent to testing.
- Students for whom consent is given for testing, will have three COVID tests in school; one on the day they return, one 3 to 5 days later and their final one 3 to 5 days after that.

## How the tests work

- You may have heard that testing in school for those without coronavirus symptoms uses new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices', which provide a result in around 30 minutes.
- Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. We will inform the student and parents/carers of a positive test result. You can also receive a text or email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system if you are registered on the system within 24 hours of the test taking place. Students will be given a registration card at the time of their test to enable you to do this. Tests are free of charge.

## What if my child tests positive?

- If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by school and you will need to arrange for them to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. All members of their household will also need to self-isolate and follow government guidance.

## What happens if the test is negative?

- While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. You can also receive a text or email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system if you are registered on the system within 24 hours of the test taking place.

## What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

- The student and their parents/carers will be notified by school if they are a close contact and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with government guidance.

## What if my child develops symptoms?

- This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.