

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the Prime Ministers announcement on Monday regarding the “Roadmap to ending England’s Lockdown”; including the plan for schools to open fully from the 8th March, we have begun to put our plans in place for bringing all students back to school during the week beginning 8th March.

There are key changes that the government has implemented which I need to make you aware of:

- Staff and students are advised to wear masks in communal areas and in class where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- All secondary school and college students will take Covid-19 tests as they return to the classroom from the 8th March.
- Covid-19 testing will transition from testing in school to testing at home.
- Children who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable should not attend school.
- Attendance is mandatory.

Wearing of mask/face coverings

We implemented the wearing of face masks in classrooms in January and found it to be very successful. Parents, students and staff have been very reassured by this additional safety measure.

Covid-19 testing (Lateral Flow Testing LFT)

All staff and students will now participate in Lateral Flow Testing twice a week. This asymptomatic testing will pick up the presence of the virus before symptoms can be seen and is a vital way to prevent transmission in school. This is particularly useful as children and young adults may not experience symptoms as severely or in the same way as adults.

From March 8th, all students will be supervised in school administering their own Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) 3 times before being given their own test kits to carry out twice weekly at home. We will request individual consent for this over the course of the next week.

We will show students how to self-swab and make sure they feel confident in how to do it. The home test kits will come with full instructions.

We have yet to be informed about how the test and trace process will work for home testing, but will obviously need you to inform us if your child receives a positive test result. If your child does receive a positive test result at home, they will need to remain off school; they will then need to take a confirmatory PCR test and self isolate for 10 days if this is also positive. A negative PCR test result would mean your child should return to school as long as they are not displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus.

I have provided details of the testing schedule on the following page.

I have kept this letter short as I am aware that more information is being produced over the course of the next couple of weeks that may impact on us. Please bear with us as we provide you with further information as it comes to us. However, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with your child’s Centre Manager in the meantime if you have any major concerns at this time; we will hopefully be able to provide answers over the next week or so.

Kind regards and best wishes

Charlotte

Plan for students return- week beginning 8th March

Monday 8 th	Staff Planning & Preparation for full opening Testing begins <u>All students</u> in all centres will be required to work from home accessing Sharepoint and online learning platforms. Lateral Flow Testing in school for Years 10 & 11 (test 1) <i>(Parents & Carers will be required to bring their child in for their test appointment and to take them home afterwards)</i>
Tuesday 9 th	Vulnerable and Critical Key worker children in school Years 10, 11, 12, 13, & 14 in school Lateral Flow Testing in school for Years 7, 8, 9 (test 1) <i>(Parents & Carers will be required to bring their child in for their test appointment and to take them home afterwards)</i>
Wednesday 10 th	All students in school Usual taxi arrangements in place from now onwards.
Thursday 11 th	Lateral Flow Testing in school for Years 10 & 11 (test 2) <i>(Students will arrive at normal time by taxi and be tested within the school day. Parents are not required to bring them in.)</i>
Friday 12 th	Lateral Flow Testing in school for Years 7, 8, 9 (test 2) <i>(Students will arrive at normal time by taxi and be tested within the school day. Parents are not required to bring them in.)</i>
Monday 15 th	Lateral Flow Testing in school for Years 10 & 11 (test 3) <i>(Students will arrive at normal time by taxi and be tested within the school day. Parents are not required to bring them in.)</i>
Tuesday 16 th	Lateral Flow Testing in school for Years 7, 8, 9 (test 3) <i>(Students will arrive at normal time by taxi and be tested within the school day. Parents are not required to bring them in.)</i>

Note:

1. Home testing kits will be distributed to students/via their taxi drivers during the week beginning 15th of March. We will let you know more details when we have them.

Our aim is to teach each student how to administer their own test so that they can confidently do this at home independently with adult supervision. If after practicing at school you find they are still experiencing difficulties please let us know and we will see what we can do to help.