



25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Asymptomatic Covid Testing prior to return to school

All schools nationally are now required to offer Covid-19 'lateral flow tests' to all staff and students prior to a full return to school. Although these tests are voluntary we strongly advise that they are taken in order to protect their health, the health of other students, staff and the wider community. In line with national guidance, schools will test students from all year groups three times before subsequent testing is completed at home under the supervision of parents/carers. Further information about testing at home will follow in the next fortnight, but this letter is to inform you about the arrangements for testing in school.

We have been conducting asymptomatic testing since January in school for staff and small numbers of students from the in-school provision. These tests have been conducted very successfully and allowed us to now make arrangements to test full year groups. The procedure involves the student 'self-testing'. They will be given a sterile swab (like a long cotton bud) which they use to rub inside their mouth and then in one nostril. This is then returned to the trained member of staff who securely uses the swab to carry out the testing process. The result of the test is shared via text message/email to the parent/carer's contact details entered into the consent form. Having conducted the test several times myself I can confidently say that the process is painless, if a little strange and unpleasant at first. Trained staff are on hand at all times to provide help if needed.

We have set out a timetable for testing for different year groups as outlined in the table below. In order for your child to be tested you will need to provide your consent. This is very quick and easy to do via a consent form which can be found in the 'Forms' section of Edulink. This form is now live and should be completed by the deadline shown in the table. Although this testing is voluntary I would again urge you to strongly consider the benefits of testing. By highlighting potential cases of Covid-19 early this will reduce the spread of the virus and also prevent large groups of students having to isolate (and therefore miss more time in school).

	Covid testing date	Consent form needs to be completed by	Students return to school
Year 11	Thursday 4 th March	Monday 1 st March	Monday 8 th March
Year 10	Thursday 4 th March	Monday 1 st March	Monday 8 th March
Year 9	Friday 5 th March	Tuesday 2 nd March	Monday 8 th March
Year 8	Friday 5 th March	Tuesday 2 nd March	Monday 8 th March
Year 7	Monday 8 th March	Wednesday 3 rd March	Tuesday 9 th March

Once you have given your consent you will be sent an appointment time for the first testing day for your son/daughter. On this first testing day students should arrive to school in full school uniform but they will return home as soon as they have been tested. Once they have received their negative test result then they will be able to return to school on Monday 8th March (Years 8-11) or Tuesday 9th March (Year 7).

If you have any immediate questions about this or any other aspect of the full return to school, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Regards

Mr S Atkin
Deputy Headteacher