



2 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL AND TESTING**

Following the government's announcement to reopen schools on 8th March, we are focusing our efforts on rolling out the rapid asymptomatic testing programme. This programme is designed to identify students without COVID-19 symptoms to enable us to break the chains of transition within school. The government is advising all secondary students and staff to be tested for Covid 19, before returning to the classroom. Although this testing is not compulsory, or a return to school conditional on having a test, we strongly advise all students to comply.

Those students taking the self-administered 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. Once the students have taken three tests on-site, they will be provided with home test kits for regular twice weekly testing at home.

Further details will follow about this but for now we know that home testing is being introduced for secondary age students. It is however important that students are initially supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on-site. The Public Health and DHSC guidance at the moment says that testing on-site initially is a condition of being able to transition students to test at home. They say that students must participate in the tests on site to ensure they are practising the correct technique to ensure competence in home testing, otherwise they cannot be issued with home testing kits.

**We will only be able to test your child if you give consent by filling the consent form in. Please can you complete the consent form in the link below.**

<https://tinyurl.com/efmf3kzt>

**If you are happy for your child to be tested in school you MUST complete this form to give consent. Without doing so, your child will NOT be able to be tested. Consent must be given in advance of the test and we are asking you to complete this consent form as a matter of urgency and by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.**

**Thank you to those of you who have returned the consent form. We have had over 1000 students whose parents have already given consent.**

We understand that some of our young people may be anxious about the testing. Please reassure them there is nothing to worry about. There will be a tutorial on Thursday morning Period 1 where our tutors will share a video that Mrs Williams has produced to talk them through it. The government have also produced a guidance video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLmZYrdkj-E&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=5>

## Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

As you will understand, we need to ensure that students and staff are as safe as possible whilst on the school site and ensure that social distancing is in place for students, staff, and the team wherever possible. **We have therefore arranged for students to arrive at the Lakeside Centre car park at the times listed below so that we can follow a one way system. They must not come on site via the main school entrance.**

Students will be tested in one of the Gyms within our school building which can be accessed via a gate to the left of the Lakeside Centre main entrance. Please ensure that your child arrives on time as we want to avoid congestion or students loitering unnecessarily.

After your child has received their test, they will be directed to leave via the main school gate at the front of the school. **We have agreed with the Lakeside Centre for their carpark to be available should you be dropping off or waiting for your child.** It is important they do not loiter outside the school to meet up with their friends as this could be counter-productive to school's safe return.

Students are not required to wear their uniform as they will only be on site for a matter of minutes however, we would advise wearing sensible/appropriate clothing and to keep a check on the weather as there is a possibility that students may need to wait outside until they are called forward. All students must wear a face covering on entry onto the school site too, unless you have previously made us aware of any exemptions.

**They will only be on site for around twenty minutes. The times they need to attend are below:**

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Arrival time	Form Class	Venue (all accessed by Lakeside Centre)
9.00 am	10 SS	Gym 1
9.10 am	10 MAS	Gym 2
9.25 am	10 MTO	Gym 1
9.35 am	10 AM	Gym 2
9.50 am	10 JJ	Gym 1
10.00 am	10 MB	Gym 2
10.15 am	10 JE	Gym 1
10.25 am	10 ACW	Gym 2
10.40 am	10 KP	Gym 1
11.20 am	11 ALD	Gym 2
11.35 am	11 CM	Gym 1
11.55 am	11 AGW	Gym 2
12.05 pm	11 RB	Gym 1
12.20 pm	11 JOP	Gym 2
12.30 pm	11 TF	Gym 1
12.45 pm	11 LRI	Gym 2
12.55 pm	11 HES	Gym 1
1.05 pm	11 CJ	Gym 2
1.50pm	12/13 KB	Gym 1
2.00 pm	12/13 NF	Gym 2
2.15pm	12/13 AR	Gym 1
2.25pm	12/13 LA	Gym 2
2.40pm	12/13 FB	Gym 1
2.50pm	12/13 PT	Gym 2



**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

Arrival time	Form Class	Venue (all accessed by Lakeside Centre)
9.00 am	7 AB	Gym 1
9.10 am	7 LS	Gym 2
9.25 am	7 CP	Gym 1
9.35 am	7 CR	Gym 2
9.50 am	7 RKN	Gym 1
10.00 am	7 NL	Gym 2
10.15 am	7 AH	Gym 1
10.25 am	7 CW	Gym 2
10.40 am	7 SAH	Gym 1
11.20 am	8 NH	Gym 2
11.35 am	8 LP	Gym 1
11.55 am	8 CB	Gym 2
12.05 pm	8 JHA	Gym 1
12.20 pm	8 HW	Gym 2
12.30 pm	8 AS	Gym 1
12.45 pm	8 RC	Gym 2
12.55 pm	8 DJN	Gym 1
1.05 pm	8 EL	Gym 2
1.50pm	9 CG	Gym 1
2.00 pm	9 AI	Gym 2
2.15pm	9 MKE	Gym 1
2.25pm	9 LM	Gym 2
2.40pm	9 JES	Gym 1
2.50pm	9 SP	Gym 2
3.05pm	9 SF	Gym 1
3.15pm	9 KL	Gym 2
3.30pm	9 RHU	Gym 1 and 2

The scholars' bus will be running on Monday and Tuesday for the key worker students but they will only run at the normal times – in reality students attending for their lateral flow test will therefore not be likely to use the scholars' service. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause but we cannot have students on site for any longer than they actually need to be.

We have had a number of queries about young people who have had COVID-19. The advice is that anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should NOT be re-tested within 90 days of that test unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19. You will therefore not need to undertake these tests if this applies to you.

Finally, just to remind you that if a parent does not give consent and the child does not undertake a test on the Monday (for Y10-13) or Tuesday (for Y7-9) they will still be able to return as normal the following day (Tuesday for Y10-13 and Wednesday for Y7-9)

We appreciate this is a lot of information for everyone to take on board and we thank you for your patience.

Yours sincerely

Mr Wilkinson - Headteacher