



25 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Ahead of the end of term, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for everything you have been doing to support your children on their return to school over the last three weeks. I know that it is difficult for us all at the moment but I greatly appreciate you working with us to support your child. Attendance in all year groups been excellent. Our students clearly want to be here and they have been very mature and sensible this term at following our new protocol and procedures, including the asymptomatic testing and the requirement to wear face coverings in classrooms. They have all been very patient and understanding and it's great that they are all so positive about being in school.

### **Testing at home throughout the Easter holidays**

The government have asked us to pass on this message to all of your staff, students and parents:

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school and college, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term.

- test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)
- report results [online](#) as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays
- test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases

**We have now sent home six COVID-19 testing kits with all of our students. Please make sure your child tests themselves twice a week 3-5 days apart. Your child should also continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays.**

They have been given a set of instructions (they are attached to this email too) and there is a video here to help you:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

Most of our students will have taken one test at home on Sunday and then another tonight (Thursday 25 March).

For the Easter holiday period we suggest you test them on the following days:

- Monday 29 March
- Friday 2 April
- Tuesday 6 April
- Sunday 11 April

This is so you have one kit left to test them on the Sunday evening before they return to school, for obvious reasons. It is really important you keep one test for the Sunday 11 April evening and ensure they take a test before they return to school on Monday 12 April.

We are expecting a further delivery of home testing kits over the Easter holidays and we will ensure that all students are given further kits when they return to school. After the Easter holidays we will revert to asking them to test themselves at the following times every week

- **Thursday evening between 4pm and 6pm, starting on Thursday 15 April**
- **Sunday evening between 4pm and 6pm**

### **Reporting results**

It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result).

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

You should report your results to the NHS and also to us – there is a simple Microsoft Form for you to let us know the result of each test undertaken here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/UANS7yDKK7>

If your child tested positive however, as a matter of urgency, please contact the school by either telephone: 0191 216 115 or email: [enquiries@gshs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gshs.org.uk) to inform us of a positive result. You must also book a PCR test to confirm it is a positive LFD test. While you are awaiting the result of the PCR your child and the whole household needs to self-isolate.

### **Covid-19 reporting over Easter**

As outlined in the government guidance, senior staff will now be on call to deal contact tracing **up to Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> if your child tests positive for Covid**. The same processes apply as regarding the information we need and how to get in touch with us up until 1<sup>st</sup> April should you need to.

You should only get in touch with us if:

- a) your child developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school and
- b) they receive a positive test result up to Thursday 1 April

In all other situations over the holidays, parents should get in touch directly with NHS Test and Trace

If your son or daughter does receive a positive COVID-19 test in the first six days of the school holidays please contact the school immediately on [enquiries@gshs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gshs.org.uk) and provide the following information:

- **Name of child**
- **Class/year group**
- **Date of the COVID-19 test**
- **Does the child have symptoms? Yes or No**
- **What date did the symptoms start?**
- **What date did the child last attend school?**
- **A contact phone number**

It is very important that you provide this information so we can identify any close contacts that your son or daughter may have had in school during their infectious period. The school will then follow up close contacts and request that they isolate for 10 days to prevent further transmission of COVID-19. Please note that you should also report any close contacts that your child has had outside the school setting through NHS Test and Trace.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for your continued support of the school. We look forward to welcoming the students back to school on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian D. Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

IAN D WILKINSON - Headteacher