

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Opening of School for All Students and Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing

As I am sure you are aware, the government has announced that schools will re-open to all students from Monday 8th March. Staff are really looking forward to welcoming students back on-site as soon as possible, but please note that the opening requirements mean that there will be a staggered return of students from this date (see details below).

Year group	1 <sup>st</sup> Lateral Flow Test	Return to School
11	Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> March
10	Tues, 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March
7	Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March
8	Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March
9	Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> March

### Asymptomatic Testing of Students On-Site

In order to ensure that our students' return is as safe as possible, voluntary asymptomatic testing for students and staff will take place from Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March. The government guidance for school re-opening states that all students should be offered three 'lateral flow' asymptomatic tests during the first two weeks of their return and that the first test should be conducted before returning to face to face teaching. Asymptomatic testing is voluntary. Students taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your child's nose and throat.

Once you have read the conditions of consent shown here

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qsfu18qtg9prydj/Return%20to%20school%20%26%20asymptomatic%20testing%20March%2021.pdf?dl=0>

Please give your consent or otherwise via the link below by **3pm on Wednesday 3rd March**.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KfZcuFRn20m4q2UtRk2ofRdmrgczg2xEmHMimphtCuZUQjQ2TIVZODQ0RTBWUDMzWIIPS0pWOTIGUC4u>

**Your child/ward's test date and time will be emailed to you during the next few days.**

Testing will take place in our sports hall. Anyone being dropped off will be able to access the car park on the immediate right hand turn into school. Students will not be entering the main building. We will have staff present to direct students. Please can all other family members remain in their vehicles to help us maintain social distancing. Students need to be punctual and only be on site for their allocated test slot.

For this first test students will only be on site for the duration of their test and will not be expected to wear their school uniform. Before and after the test they should be at home, accessing remote learning.

Additional information about the testing process is providing overleaf. Please continue to check the school website for information throughout this week.

## COVID-19: Asymptomatic Testing for Students

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. We are advised that by testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. Participation in our testing programme is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to participate.

### What if a student tests positive?

The results will be communicated to the email and mobile phone number you identify when submitting your consent information. If your child tests positive after the second or third test, when they are in school, they will need to return home to self-isolate. They will then need to have a further 'PCR test' at a local testing site and obtain a negative result before breaking the 10 day isolation.

Students testing positive through the home lateral flow test will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). You will be asked to book a test at a local COVID-19 testing centre. We recommend that you visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. While they wait for the PCR result (via text/email) your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### What happens if the test is negative?

The second and third tests will be conducted once your child has returned to school. If these test results are negative your child will be able to stay in school and continue their activities as normal. A student will only be contacted in school if they test positive on a lateral flow test. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

### What if my child develops symptoms?

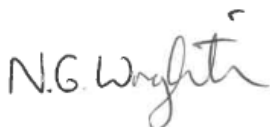
The 'mass testing' and home testing of students is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or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

## Asymptomatic Testing of Students at Home

From Monday 22nd March, all students who are taking part in the asymptomatic testing programme will be provided with lateral flow device test kits so that they can be tested at home, twice each week. Results must be reported to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Students aged 12 to 16 should self-test and report with adult supervision (the adult may conduct the test if necessary). Students aged 11 should be tested by an adult. Further details and instructions will be shared with parents and students before Monday 22nd March.

Once students have completed their third test, and understand how the test works, they will be issued with a home testing kit so they can continue to test themselves twice per week at home. Further information will follow closer to when home testing commences.

Yours faithfully,



Graeme Wrightson  
Headteacher



Mel Ward  
Deputy Headteacher