

February 24<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware the Government has announced that secondary school students will return from March 8<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately the news reports have not highlighted the fact that secondary schools have been given a week to phase students back so that mass testing can take place before students return to the classroom. It is our intention to use this phased approach to return so that we can test students and I will send out a detailed plan of that in the next few days - but please do not presume that your son or daughter will be in school on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Those children of critical workers and those deemed vulnerable can continue to attend each day.

We have set up the hall as a testing centre and have been using this since the start of term for staff and those students who are in school. We have a group of staff who have been trained to run and administer the testing process but students and staff self-swab for the test. From March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Government plan is that students will have 3 tests in school, 3-5 days apart, before beginning to test twice weekly at home. The first test should take place before students return to the classroom. This is obviously quite a logistical exercise and will take a few days - hence the phased return. For the protection of the whole school community, everyone is strongly encouraged to take part in the testing programme.

To help us plan I am asking you please to fill in the consent form for testing as soon as possible (by Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>) and would ask all parents/carers to fill in the form which can be found at [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KmRPY3CzdEmmLdv4oiFT5XKPPER\\_aqtEphSicHneV\\_o5UOVdaWVNCUII2S1dVUVRUVzdKMDU1RjdGTS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KmRPY3CzdEmmLdv4oiFT5XKPPER_aqtEphSicHneV_o5UOVdaWVNCUII2S1dVUVRUVzdKMDU1RjdGTS4u)

We do also need to know who is not giving consent.

## What if a student tests positive?

Students who test positive on the lateral flow device will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will be notified by the NHS by text and we will also call you. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Following a positive test a student (along with any close contacts) will need to self-isolate for 10 days.

## What happens if the test is negative?

Students will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A small number of staff and students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

After the first test in the week beginning March 8th, students will then have 2 further tests in school (they can be taken out of class for these) and will then be asked to do 2 home tests a week for as long as there is a Government expectation to. These home tests will need to be registered with the NHS but we will also set up a system for informing school of the result.

## What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school 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>. They must not come into school if they are displaying symptoms and if they develop symptoms in school they will be sent home.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01772 682008 or email [contact@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:contact@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk)

Further information, including a privacy notice, information sheet and data protection questions are attached to this broadcast.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Waller  
Headteacher