

24 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, schools will start to welcome back the majority of students during the week beginning 8th March. This will involve a staggered process so that we can get all year groups back safely and meet the government's expectation that we test all students before face-to-face learning starts. The guidance states, "asymptomatic testing is a further and critical tool to help mitigate the transmission of COVID19".

We are still looking at how this actually works and the order in which we bring children back and will send out more detailed instructions soon explaining how we will be ensuring the system of controls, social distancing and expectations around masks are clear and shared.

The government guidance states we will move to a model of testing staff and students at home, but this will be after we have tried to test all of our students over the three-week period up until Easter. The advice is that even though testing in school is voluntary, students should return to face-to-face learning after a negative result. When I write again, I will be able to share some more information about the Lateral Flow Tests and explain how successfully the last 8 weeks have gone, completing nearly 1500 tests safely and sensibly.

In order to get ourselves up and running, we are required to get consent from all families to allow their children to be tested. Please can I ask that all families fill in the form, giving consent to be tested in school. Whilst we are expecting all children to be tested, there is a space in the form to decline consent.

The form can be found here: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hmpYW-bEmU2DF5CfHJ74qo_TmijnlK5IjQ5kAPxZDctUOFhJMEVDVExQMUhPQ1IwUkxJUKU5UVE4Qy4u
(Please can parents complete one form per child at the school).

This is an enormous challenge for a secondary school to implement testing on this scale and we genuinely appreciate your support and understanding. As we keep saying, this is something we never wanted to be doing in school, but as a part of bringing children back safely, we will ensure it is done well.

Yours sincerely,



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