



Rye College
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Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

Thursday, 22nd July 2021

Dear families,

Reopening from Thursday, 2nd September 2021

I am writing with information on the return of all students to school from Thursday, 2nd September. UK Government has asked schools to offer all students **two lateral flow tests, three to five days apart** on their return as an important additional control measure against coronavirus. Given positive cases look likely to continue rising in the region, lateral flow testing is the most effective way to return young people to the classroom and support the continuation of face-to-face education.

Participation rates amongst students for in-school testing are much higher than home testing – therefore, more likely to detect positive cases and prevent circulation in school. **Although voluntary, we strongly encourage all students to participate in this testing programme.**

As we did in March, students' first test will be a 'pre-test' taken before returning to school full-time. The second test will be taken over the course of the day students' return to school full-time.

Students will return to school as follows, whether they take part in lateral flow testing or not:

- **Friday, 3rd September, 9am – Years 7 and 11;**
- **Monday, 6th September, 9am – Years 8, 9 and 10.**

Remote education for all years will begin at 9am on Thursday, 2nd September.

How to book the pre-test

Families must book their child's pre-test for the following days:

- **Thursday, 2nd September – Years 7 and 11 (9am to 3.30pm);**
- **Friday, 3rd September – Years 8, 9 and 10 (9am to 3.30pm).**

Appointments are made online:

1. If you are new Year 7 or have not submitted previously, complete the **online consent form** (one per child) on our website: ryecollege.co.uk/mustknow/nhstesttrace;
2. Book your pre-test using the Parent Evening System by **midday** on **Wednesday, 25th August** on either ryecollege.schoolcloud.co.uk or ryecollege.co.uk/mustknow/nhstesttrace;
3. Ensure your child arrives in plenty of time for their appointment **wearing a face covering.**

Testing is held in the **main hall** and typically takes around 10-15 minutes. Further information and an instructional video are available on our website. Students must leave site once the test is complete. The college car park will be open during the hours of testing. All results are shared with parents via text and/or email using the national 'test and trace' system.

We are aware new Year 7 students will not have experienced in-school testing before so we will be providing additional support for these students on their two testing days.

Pre-testing will allow students to return straight to the classroom on the day of their return. Families should therefore plan to minimise any possible exposure to coronavirus over the weekend.

Move to home testing

After two in-school tests have been taken, students should resume twice-weekly home-testing. The continued need for lateral flow testing will be reviewed by UK Government at the end of September.

We understand the return to the new academic year brings additional complications. However, with the rise of new variants, it is more important than ever to safely return everyone to the classroom – students, teachers and colleagues. Whilst these arrangements may cause some inconvenience, we believe it to be relatively minor considering the great reassurance the process offers us all.

Thank you for your incredible support throughout the year – we are genuinely looking forward to seeing our young people in the new academic year.

If you have any further questions feel free to email office@ryecollege.co.uk.

We wish you a happy, restful and safe summer holiday.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive name that appears to be 'D. Downes', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. D. Downes
Head of College