

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

We hope you are safe and well. We are writing to you following the government announcement yesterday regarding the return of students to school during the week beginning the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Yesterday the government announced that all secondary school students will be offered coronavirus lateral flow tests as they return to the classroom from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Schools have discretion on how to phase the return of their students over the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March to allow students to be tested three times on their return to school. As you can imagine, as a large secondary school, this will take us some time to complete.

After an initial programme of three tests in school, students will then be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. Secondary school staff will also continue to be provided with two tests to use each week at home.

Along with the other protective measures we have been taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. By testing we will help to limit the virus spreading and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

**The tests are voluntary and we need your consent for this to happen.**

Those taking the test will be supervised by our own trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, requiring a swab of the nose and throat. For students, staff will oversee the swab process.

Positive results will be shared directly with students and parents. If a student tests positive, they will be isolated and you will be contacted about them going home to isolate.

**If you are happy for your child to be tested three times at school please fill in the consent form by clicking on the link and digitally signing it:**

**<https://app.weduc.co.uk/canvas/index/choose/id/140737488358099>.**

**We need your consent and this information by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February.** This so we can appropriately plan for the testing and return of students. We will be in touch again regarding the timetable of tests and the date your child can return to school.



*Transforming Lives*

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**nace**  
National Association for Able Children in Education

### **What happens if the test is positive?**

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results. If a student tests positive they will be isolated and you will be expected to come and collect them as quickly as possible.

Students 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 can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result they will need to self-isolate. 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?**

Students will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. 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?**

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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school and remain committed to doing this in the safest way possible.

Yours faithfully,

Christina Bailey and Chris Heal  
Acting Principal

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