

Wednesday, 24 February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Preparation for full return of students from Monday 8th March

I hope you and your families are well and that you enjoyed some quality time during the half term. You will be aware of the announcement that children in secondary schools are expected to return from the 8th March. We are really looking forward to welcoming your children back into school.

You will also be aware that schools need to offer all students the opportunity to conduct a lateral flow test. The government suggest that it is best for students to receive a negative test result before they return to lessons with their peers. Please note that no child will be refused entry to school if they are not tested as the test is voluntary although strongly recommended.

On the 11th January, a letter was sent to all parents. If you have not already done so, please complete the [consent survey](#) . Please do this whether you provide your consent or not. You will also need to read the accompanying [privacy notice](#). We would like this to be completed by **11am on Friday 26th February**.

The government would like to move to a system of home-testing once students have become accustomed to taking the tests themselves, under the supervision and support of trained lateral flow testing staff. Students will be offered the opportunity to have three tests at school 3 to 5 days apart. Starting these tests in advance of the 8th March will minimise the impact on any further loss of curriculum time.

To meet this requirement and to manage the large numbers of students we would need to get through, we are considering starting the first set of tests during the week beginning Monday 1st March. This will allow examination groups to begin lessons from the 8th March and stagger the return of the remaining year groups. I will write to you again with further details by the end of this week.

Thank you for all you have done to support the school during this time and especially in your efforts to maintain the motivation and aspirations of your children throughout the remote learning. Together, we will continue to offer the best educational service for your child.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Manderson
Headteacher

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1



YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2

YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU



3



BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4

10 SECS

OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

5

REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6

GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

8

YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES



7

AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

9



YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT