

Our ref: PJS/DKP

24 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I'm sure we are all pleased to see that school will be returning from Monday 8 March. We are in the early stages of planning but I thought it would be useful to give you the broad approach which we are taking – we will follow up with more detail next week.

The government have allowed us a flexibility over the week to manage the testing which is essential to a safe return. All students with consent need to be tested three times, within 3-5 days of the previous test which is clearly a logistical challenge.

We are keen to make the return to school as smooth as possible but, more importantly, as safe as possible. We will be testing using the lateral flow device tests (LFDs) which give a result within 30 minutes. All students will have one test before they start on-site learning, we will begin trying to administer 150+ tests a day, before ramping it up to 300+ by the end of the week.

Learning over this week will be a mix of remote learning and live as the students make a staggered return to school. All the time we have to ensure that our systems are robust and safe because we don't want to rush the testing but therefore create close contact situations where we find children then have to self-isolate for ten days because they came into contact unnecessarily with a positive case.

Teachers will be still providing the live learning online whilst students are at home and then real-life live learning for the students who are back. Staff may be able to test themselves at home, however we also have to plan for the possibility that we have to build them into the test schedule, therefore some of the online learning may be a little disrupted to allow this to happen. Key worker provision will continue across the week until the students are back.

The schedule for testing looks as follows:

Year Group	Friday 5 March	Monday 8 March	Tuesday 9 March	Wednesday 10 March	Thursday 11 March	Friday 12 March
Year 11	TEST 1	In school	TEST 2*	In School	In school	TEST 3**
Year 10	Remote learning	TEST 1	In school	In school	TEST 2*	In school
Year 9	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning	TEST 1	In school
Year 8	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning	TEST 1	In school	In school
Year 7	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning	TEST 1	In School	In school

In this first week students in Year 10 and 11 will not come in for a day's school on their second test but just come in for their appointment for testing and do remote learning for the remainder of the day. We will be conducting twice the number of tests by then and we don't have enough staff to conduct 400+ tests, run the remote learning and safely ferry students back and forth for testing. Additionally, we don't want to find ourselves in the situation that we discover a student who has tested positive late in the schedule has sat in lessons all day and therefore increase the number of students who will have to self-isolate as a result. The nature of upper school means students are never in tutor groups in lessons therefore all lessons all day would be interrupted by students coming in and out – it is better that they come in for their appointment and then work at home for the day. I appreciate it's a shame for them to come in and then have one last day at home, but I hope that it will avoid additional self-isolations.

All other students (Years 7-9) will complete their second and third tests in the following week according to the 3-5 day window. The remote learning provision will then revert to the home learning package without live learning for isolating students and all students will be expected in full time. Testing will continue around lessons for the following couple of weeks, which will be disruptive, but after that students will be issued with self-testing kits to complete at home.

As you can imagine this is a massive exercise and we would like to test almost all students, in order to make our school as safe as possible for students and staff, therefore we would ask you to complete the consent form which can be accessed by following the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RDeYj-ydTkeopTEzNBRyUopIe66LfspAmviO5be88aVUM08xUEkzVkhNQlpBWlJJWVBOMDdZQzY0VS4u>

We would like these completed and submitted by the end of school on **Monday 1 March**. Students who have had a positive Covid test in the last 90 days cannot be tested at this present time. If you do not give consent for your child to be tested, then they need to return to school on the same day as their year group (green on the table).

Appointment times will be sent to parents via email and text. Students will be called to school in tutor groups and definite times will be allocated to each tutor group. The schedule will also be published on our website.

Next week we will email with a reminder about start times, protocols and new arrangements such as wearing masks in lessons which have now been mandated, but I thought it would be helpful for us to give you an outline of our plans.

Thank you once more for your continued support and sterling efforts in supporting your children and I look forward to welcoming you back into school at some point in the future.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



**P Jenkins**  
**Headteacher**