



Dear Parents/Carers

Full Reopening of School and Covid-19 Lateral Flow testing

As you will be aware from the Prime Minister's announcements on Monday all students will return to schools from Monday 8th March, with secondary schools welcoming different year groups back across the week. I know that you and your children will welcome this news; we are currently working through the new guidance which is very similar to the way we were operating in the Autumn term.

Once we have full details of the return and any changes in how school will operate we will share these with you but in the meantime I need to let you know about a significant aspect of the Government's plan. As part of the full reopening of school, all students will be offered Covid-19 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests on their return. This testing will consist of three separate tests in school, 3 to 5 days apart, and then twice weekly testing at home. These are quick and simple self administered tests, enabling us to rapidly test staff and students without the need for a laboratory.

The testing has the following objectives:

- to identify asymptomatic but potentially infectious individuals, helping to prevent or break the chain of transmission of Covid-19 at school
- to give increased confidence to students and staff around in-person education

The testing of students is on a voluntary basis. The test facility has been successfully operated by trained staff volunteers since January. Prior to testing, you must complete the 'Student Consent form for COVID-19 testing in secondary schools and colleges.' You will also have been provided with a Privacy Notice for information. Once students have completed a test they are free to carry on with their normal day. The tests take about 30 minutes to process. If the test is positive parents will be contacted immediately to collect your child. The whole of your household will then be required to self isolate for 10 days, in line with Government Guidance.

As soon as our plans have been finalised for the safe return of your children I will be in back in touch.

Best Wishes

Mrs F Cessford

Acting Head of School