



8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

### **Covid-19 Update: Testing**

I wanted to thank and congratulate everyone for how well the students have coped with the return to school and how they have quickly adapted both to the existing and additional arrangements for ensuring the school is Covid-secure.

It has been particularly pleasing to see the overwhelming majority of students taking part in the in-school testing programme which is giving us all a greater sense of reassurance as we have come back together in school. It is proving a vital tool in our efforts to minimise the risk of the virus.

Due to the demand for testing we have had to change plans for when students will receive their second and third tests. I want to assure you though that each in school test for your child will be carried out within the 3-5-day window from the previous test as set out by the government.

The revised plan is presented in the box below:

Year Group	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3
7	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 11.30am – 1.30pm	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 12.30pm – 3.00pm	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 12.30pm – 3pm
8	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 8.30am – 11am	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 9.10am-12.10pm	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 9.10am – 12.10pm
9	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 8.30am – 11am	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 9.10am – 12.10pm	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 9.10am – 12.10pm
10	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 11.30am – 1pm	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 12.30pm – 3.00pm	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 12.30pm – 3pm
11	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2pm – 3.30pm	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 1pm – 2pm	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 1pm – 3pm

When the in-school testing is complete and each student has been tested three times, the school will be adopting the Government's at-home testing regime. This will involve students being given testing kits to take home twice a week for their own use. The first of these will be distributed to students on Monday



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15<sup>th</sup> March. Participation in this is very important for us as a community; it is not compulsory but taking part benefits us all helping to keep us and our families and friends safer.

Students will be expected to take the test at home twice a week. We would suggest completing the test every Sunday and Wednesday. When your child gets their first at-home testing kit, full details of exactly what you need to do will be provided within the kit.

The results of each test must be reported to NHS Test and Trace (instructions on how to do this will be included with the kits). We are also asking you to report the results to us at school by completing an online form, as the NHS data is not shared with us. Please report the result of the test – both to NHS Test and Trace and school – even if it is negative or void. Doing this will help scientists and medical experts identify where cases are occurring and what further action, if any, they need to take. It will also help us with our contact tracing in school and to understand if there are any issues with the testing programme that we need to address. More details will follow next week.

Some families have already asked if they can have additional kits for testing all family members on a regular basis. These are available for you but from the NHS or your employer rather than via the school.

Staff at school will likewise continue to be tested regularly. I do firmly believe that it is vital for each of us to play our part in this testing programme so that we can all be safer, at less risk and able to manage future cases in our community more quickly, should they occur, and with less impact on everyone's daily lives.

As we move out of Lockdown and, we hope, back to a more normal time, the scientists and medical experts will be relying on us all to do our bit to keep monitoring cases in our communities. What has become clear in the research the government has published is that schools have not been places where there has been significant spreading of the virus but, if there are high numbers of cases in a school, this is likely to be the result of high levels of community cases nearby.

We all want to finish this term with everyone in school wherever possible, making the most of face-to-face learning, and able to enjoy a full Summer term. Please help us to make this possible and ensure your child completes their at-home testing twice a week and do always report the outcome both to the school and the NHS Test and Trace.

Yours sincerely

Mark Shipman  
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr M Shipman