



Letter No: 178/2021

19th July 2021

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Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

COVID Testing ahead at the start of the new school year

As part of the Government's strategy to ensure that students are safe to be back in school together at the start of the new academic year, the school is expected to carry out two Lateral Flow Tests on all students on their return to school.

We want to communicate current plans with families ahead of the summer break. These plans will be finalised following any further guidance from the Government but we hope that the following provides you with the key information you need to plan engagement with the process.

The two tests will take place in the Sports Hall on Tuesday 31st August and Friday 3rd September 2021. The schedule for the first test is outlined below while the second test will take place during the school day.

Tuesday 31 st August	
Time	Tutor groups 2021/22
8.30am – 9.00am	7A and 7E
9.00am – 9.30am	7F and 7H
9.30am – 10.00am	7J and 7N
10.00am – 10.30am	7S and 7T
11.00am – 11.30am	8A, 8E, 8F and 8H
11.30am – 12.00pm	8J, 8N, 8S and 8T
12.00pm – 12.30pm	9A, 9E, 9F and 9H
12.30pm – 1.00pm	9J, 9N, 9S and 9T
1.30pm – 2.15pm	10A, 10E, 10F and 10H and Sixth formers
2.15pm – 3.00pm	10J, 10N, 10S and 10T and Sixth formers
3.15pm – 4.00pm	11A, 11E, 11F and 11H and Sixth formers
4.00pm – 4.45pm	11J, 11N, 11S and 11T and Sixth formers



Please familiarise yourself with the following:

- Students should attend at their allocated time; Sixth Form students can attend at any time from 1.30pm.
- We would ask that where students cannot walk to the site, or use public transport that families do not park on site.
- Students in Year 7 will be supported in completing the tests. The expectation is that students in Year 8 upwards will be able to self-administer the tests given the expectation to have been completing home testing since March.
- Students in Year 8 to 13 will complete the online registration process for the tests. The process should be completed by families of Year 7 students. Full guidance relating to this process will be provided on the day.
- Lateral flow tests are designed to be taken by **asymptomatic** students only; any student who has COVID related symptoms on the day should not come to school.
- Similarly, students should not take the LFD test if they have received a positive Covid-19 PCR in the last 90 days.
- Testing is voluntary, but those who are eligible for tests are strongly encouraged to participate to reduce the risk of transmission within education settings. Communication in August will include a link to a consent form for families with students joining the school in Year 7 and 12 from September while we will also provide the opportunity for other families to update their permission status from that given during the previous onsite testing in March.
- We appreciate some families will still be on holiday on 31st August. Students who cannot test on this day will be tested in school on Friday 3rd September with arrangements for the second test to be confirmed later in August.

As noted, the Government may yet provide additional guidance as the summer progresses and we will confirm these plans with families during the summer break accordingly.

Thank you once again for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Mark Nicholls
Deputy Headteacher