

23 July 2021



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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. Once again, we find ourselves at the mercy of very late expectations from the Department for Education regarding COVID preparations for the new term in September. We have been informed by the Government that we are to provide two asymptomatic coronavirus tests (lateral flow tests) to all students before they return to their full school programme in the new academic year.

As I am sure you will appreciate, testing so many students at such short notice is a significant logistical challenge. As a consequence, the Department for Education has invited schools to stagger the first week of term to enable testing to take place.

Below you will find our plans to test all students twice and then start the new school academic year.

Test 1:

- Years 10 - 11 attend school on Monday, 6 September to carry out their first test, then return home. They will then return to school on Thursday for their second test, after which they will follow their normal timetable.
- Year 7 students will attend school as originally planned on Tuesday, 7 September, take a test and also carry out their planned team building activities for the day before returning home at 3:10pm. They will then return to school on Friday for their second test after which they will follow their normal timetable.
- Years 8 and 9 will have a tutor session on Wednesday, 8 September to collect timetables etc. and take a test, after which they will return home. Year 8 will return to school on Friday, 10 September for their second test, after which they will follow their normal timetable. Year 9 will return for their second test on Monday, 13 September, after which they will follow their normal timetable.

Test 2: The second date involves students returning to school to take their second test. Following the test, they will then remain in school to follow their timetabled lessons. The following day, after a student has taken the second test, they will continue to follow their normal timetable. Morning registration starts promptly at 8:45 a.m.

Year	1 st Test date	Time	2 nd Test date	Time	
10	Mon 6 Sept	9:30 in tutor rooms	Thu 9 Sept	8:45 in tutor rooms.	Please Note: After the second test, students will then commence timetabled lessons as normal, each day.
11	Mon 6 Sept	12:30 in tutor rooms	Thu 9 Sept	11:30 in tutor rooms.	
7	Tues 7 Sept	9:00 in the Drama Hall	Fri 10 Sept	8:45 in tutor rooms	
8	Wed 8 Sept	9:30 in tutor rooms	Fri 10 Sept	11:30 in tutor rooms.	
9	Wed 8 Sept	12:30 in tutor rooms	Mon 13 Sept	8:45 in tutor rooms.	

All students who have a test must have parental consent. If you have already provided consent, you do not need to do anything. If you now wish to give consent or you are a parent of a new year 7 child, you must give your consent before a test can be carried out. Testing is voluntary. Please click the link below to give consent. The schedule above applies to all students regardless of consent. If consent has not been provided, students will stay in the tutor room whilst testing takes place.

<https://forms.office.com/r/cKBFCv1xMv>

If the guidance changes, we will inform you as soon as we are able. We will also be sending specific year group communications in the final week of the school holidays to clarify times and locations for the tests.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to as normal a school year as is possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Hill', written in a cursive style.

Graham Hill
Headteacher