



Dear Parents/Carers,

Following my letter earlier in the week, please find further information for the 8<sup>th</sup> March return date for all pupils. The government guidance stipulates that we should test for possible asymptomatic cases for all secondary age pupils on their return to school- for those pupils who haven't been in school throughout the lockdown period. It further states we should test these pupils 3 times with each test 3-5 days apart.

### Asymptomatic tests in school for pupils:

- The lateral flow tests (LFTs) are to identify asymptomatic cases only. It is still the case that if any young person displays any of the coronavirus symptoms or who lives in a household with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive, they should not come to school and should ring 119 to arrange a Covid test
- The LFT involves students self-administering a swab to the back of their throat and their nose. The swab will then be handled by trained staff who will undertake the necessary processing. Test results will take in the region of 30 minutes to provide a positive or negative result. Pupils who provide a positive test result will be isolated within school until arrangements can be made for them to be collected by their parents from the school. The school will be registering each child for each of their LFTs and each test result is then uploaded to NHS Test and Trace. Parents will receive an email or text of this test result directly from NHS Test and Trace. The school will only inform parents if the result of their child's lateral flow test is positive.
- **Consent forms**-testing of students can only be done if parents have completed a consent form. Thank you to all those who have already provided consent. Consent forms and information has been posted out for all pupils who haven't been in school over the lockdown period. Please can these be returned to school as soon as possible or be returned with your child on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- **Future testing**- once the school has completed the 3 initial lateral flow tests, we will continue to test secondary age pupils once a week.

Please contact the school if you have any concerns about your child returning or have any questions or queries; we are here to support.

### Other information:

- School meals have continued through the lockdown period and will continue as normal.
- The timings of the school day have not changed and normal transport arrangements will be in place.
- We are encouraging all secondary pupils to bring a mask into school with them and we will encourage them to wear face coverings in the communal areas if they are able to.

**And finally:**

- World book day Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March – dress as your favourite book character
- Comic relief- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – dress as a super hero!

Have a fantastic weekend

Best wishes,

Ruth Carpenter

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Carpenter". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Headteacher