

What is the purpose of these asymptomatic Covid tests?

The purpose is to detect asymptomatic cases of Covid and isolate anyone carrying the virus. These measures are to help stop the transmission of this virus within the community and ensure a continuity of school. We expect to work together to do everything we can to prevent the spread of Covid and the new variants.

How will the tests be conducted?

We have set up a testing centre in the Sports Hall which we have been using for the weekly testing of staff and the key worker/vulnerable students who are in school. The test is self-administered by each student by swabbing the back of their throat and nose. A member of staff will be on hand to talk them through the test which takes around 3 minutes to complete. A different member of staff will undertake the processing of the test which then takes a further 30 minutes. If the test is void, the student will be asked to provide a new sample and repeat the test. Students will wait for the first test result before being allowed to leave.

Any student who has a positive test will be isolated and parents contacted immediately to come and collect them. If parents cannot collect them they will be allowed to walk. Students will be sent home with a PCR test kit to be completed at home and sent off for laboratory testing. Students with a positive test will not be allowed to use public transport or taxis.

How will I receive my child's test results?

All students will be registered by us with NHS Track and Trace. They will receive a registration card when they come for each test. If you do not hear from NHS or the school you can assume the result is negative.

What if my child has Special Educational needs or a disability?

If your child has Special Educational needs or a disability and you would like them to receive additional support to take the test please contact Ms Kenning by email - kennings@wellandparkacademy.com Should there be a medical reason why your child cannot take this test, please contact Mrs Burgess burgessn@wellandparkacademy.com to let us know.

Are the tests compulsory?

No one is compelled to take these Covid tests, we hope that everyone will. We are putting a great deal of work into setting this up as we are trying to protect everyone's family and to have continuity of education in school.

If my child does not have the tests can they still return to school?

Since the Government have said the tests are not compulsory, students will be allowed to return to school with everyone else on their return date. The tests are there to ensure we do not have students coming back to school with Covid who may be asymptomatic; the consequence of this will be the need to send all close contacts home to self isolate for 10 days.

What is happening from the 8th March with lessons?

All students will return to school for their set return dates following the same timetable they had before Christmas. We will continue to operate with the same Risk Assessment arrangements as the Autumn term with the zone areas and 'bubbles'.

We continue with

- Staggered start and end times for the school day
- Line up at the front of school in year groups on arrival
- Year group "bubbles"

- Seating plans for each classroom
- Staggered lunch and break times
- Every student uses hand gel at the start of each session
- Students will wipe down their desk or work station at the end of their lesson
- Good ventilation – classroom windows and doors open

The Government has introduced new guidance that students should wear face masks at all times when indoors. This means both when walking around the building and also in lessons. Masks do not need to be worn during lunch time whilst students are outdoors.

We encourage the use of recyclable masks but if we do need to provide a disposable mask to your child these will be charged at 10p each – payable by cash to the School Office.

Will school lunches be back on?

Yes as per the Autumn term, a selection of hot and cold lunches will be provided in 2 different venues for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

If my child tests positive, have the rules changed?

As before, should your child have Covid symptoms **you must not send them to school**. You must book an NHS centre Covid test and let us know immediately should they test positive. They will be required to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or if they had no symptoms, a positive test result.

What happens if someone in my child's class tests positive after 8th March?

We will contact all those who have been in close contact with that student and they will be required to self-isolate. Close contact is considered to be:

- face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to face conversation within 1 metre
- been within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
- travelled in the same vehicle

Work will be set on Edulink for all those isolating. Please note that we will not be able to provide live lessons on MS Teams whilst students are isolating.

Are students also getting tests to do at home?

Students will receive these home tests when they have their third test in school; instructions will be provided for them nearer the time.

Please may I urge you to complete the consent form, we are unable to test students without parental consent. If you are unable to complete the form, you may email Mrs Burgess with your written consent giving the child's full name and form group burgessn@wellandparkacademy.com

Does my child need to wear uniform?

Students who are attending school for tests and then attending lessons will need to arrive in full uniform. Students who just attend for tests e.g. Year 10 on Monday 8th and Year 7 on Tuesday 9th may attend school and not wear the uniform just for this period.

What if my child has outgrown their uniform?

Please use the website to purchase uniform as per the usual procedure. For Year 11 students who have outgrown uniform we have some recycled uniform stock which can be loaned to students for the weeks that they have remaining with us in school. This will be looked at on a case by case basis.

What are you doing about GCSEs this year?

We will be writing to Year 11 parents later this week to outline our procedure in anticipation of the release of materials from awarding bodies at Easter.

Will the curriculum be different for my child once they return to normal lessons?

Students will follow the same two-week timetable as they did in the Autumn term and through this lockdown with lessons 2/3 and 4/5 as doubles. Teachers recognise that, whilst a full timetable of live lessons has continued, youngsters have had different experiences of remote learning and that returning to the classroom will require some adjusting. Initial work will be done in all curriculum areas to establish any gaps in knowledge or skills and a recovery curriculum followed to support youngsters in these circumstances.

What support is there for students with mental health concerns?

We have a highly effective pastoral team who have been working with students throughout the lockdown periods, this will continue upon the return to school. Tutors look forward to welcoming their form groups back and have been meeting these students each morning. Additionally, we have 2 counsellors on site who will be working with specific students.

Moving forwards, we also have 4 members of staff who will be working with MHFA England to complete training as Mental Health First Aiders.