

26 February 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to be writing to confirm details of when children can return to school. I am sorry that this is quite a long letter but there is a lot of information to convey, so please do take the time to read it carefully.

Our plan is for **all students to return to on-site education at 8.30am on Monday 8 March**. In order to make this possible, we will carry out the first of the three LFD Covid tests on Thursday and Friday of the week before.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one-third of people who have Covid-19 experience no symptoms. By testing, we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

Testing in school

Students need to come into college for their first LFD tests on the date and time given below and will then return home and wait for their test result. Assuming they receive a negative test result, they will then be free to return to school on Monday 8 March. We will telephone parents/carers if any student receives a positive test result.

The two subsequent LFD tests will take place between 8 and 12 March, during the school day, once students are back in college.

Testing at home

From the week beginning 15 March, students will need to test themselves at home twice a week. We will write again with a detailed plan for the use of the home testing kits. One purpose of carrying out in-school testing first is so that children can be taught how to swab accurately by trained Test Assistants. The intention is that this will improve the accuracy of home-testing. For this reason, the home test kits cannot be distributed prior to your child having three tests in our testing facility.

Consent for testing

There are a number of children for whom we do not have consent to undertake the required Covid-19 lateral flow tests. Our year teams will contact you directly if you have not completed the consent form to make sure that this is not an oversight. If you haven't yet completed the form, please do so as a matter of urgency: <https://forms.gle/WaoM55NTxxv8Dn9g6>

Testing schedule

Students will be tested in their tutor groups. When arriving at the college, students should enter through the large PE gates by the back of the Sports Hall. This will be clearly sign-posted. They should make their way around the top playground and join the socially distanced queue outside the Dance Studio. Once inside, they will be given instructions on how to undertake the test and they will complete the registration process. They will then move to the Sports Hall for the test before being allowed to go home. The registration, information and testing process can take up to one hour.



Your child's first allocated test time is:

Day/Date: **Friday 5 March**

Time:

Tutor group	Time
7BCN	8:30 am
7GEE	8:30 am
7HMD	9 am
7KEL	9 am
7KEN	9:30 am
7LSE	9:30 am
7MCK	10 am
7RED	10 am
7EVA	10 am

Please be aware of the following:

- ▲ This plan relies on students arriving for their test at the correct date and time.
- ▲ **It is imperative that students arriving for a test maintain a 2 metre distance from all others at all times. If they do not, any positive test results in the cohort may lead to your child having to self-isolate for ten days, thus missing the return to school.**
- ▲ Students do not need to wear uniform when they are only coming in for an LFD test (i.e. Thursday 4 and Friday 5 March). They will need full uniform from Monday 8 March.
- ▲ Students should wear a face covering except when carrying out the test itself.
- ▲ We cannot test any students who arrive for a test without consent. Please see above.
- ▲ In order to test the entire school roll in two days, we will not be able to provide 'live' teaching at the same time. Therefore the work will be set on Google Classroom without a live lesson **on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 March only.**

Return to college

Students will need to be wearing full uniform from Monday 8 March, including school shoes so please use the coming days to ensure this is ready. As per my previous letter, please also ensure they have an adequate supply of face masks, as well as all other required equipment.

If you have borrowed a laptop or router from the college to facilitate home learning, please **do not** send this in with your child. Your child may continue to use this for homework for the time being and we will contact you at a later date to organise its return.

We aim to restart our extra-curricular programme after the Easter holiday.

We are really looking forward to having all students back in college, and seeing them engage with their learning. I know the last year has been incredibly unsettled but please be assured we will do all we can to support our students and ensure that they are happy and thriving at school.

With best wishes



Alex Newton
Principal