



Chapelhouse Road
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23 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

The government have informed us that students can begin to return to face to face education from the 8th March. This is welcome news and we look forward to welcoming all children back in a safe and meaningful manner.

Phased return to school to allow for testing of students

As part of the government's plan to suppress this virus we have been advised that all secondary schools' students will be offered three COVID-19 lateral flow tests from the 8th March which will take place at school. Following government guidance, **the return of pupils will be phased during the first week to manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time.** It is likely that we will be carrying out up to 3000 individual tests in this period. The details of this phased return are outlined below with pupils able to return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Students will be allocated a specific time for their first test once we receive their consent form.

Year Group	Testing Date	Return Date and Time
13	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March, 8:20
12	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March, 8:20
11	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March, 8:20
10	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March, 8:30
9	Thursday 11 th March	Friday 12 th March, 8:40
8	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March, 8:30
7	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March, 8:20

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all students as they return to the Academy, on their specific 'testing date' outlined in the table above.

Testing is voluntary but pupils are strongly encouraged to take part to support the return to face to face education.

Consent forms must be received by Tuesday 2nd March either by return of the enclosed consent form or via the electronic form that can be accessed via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/GAS-COVID>

Any pupils not undergoing testing should attend school on their phased return date as indicated in the table above.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow devices are easy to undertake, using a swab of your nose and throat. Results will be shared directly to the person named on the consent form via a text/email notification from the online NHS system. The school will also inform any student of a positive test result directly using the phone number provided.

Any students with a positive test result will need to self-isolate for ten days in line with the Public Health England guidance.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self isolate for 10 days as per the national guidelines.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate in line with the government guidelines, inform the school and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

If your child is isolating because of a positive test result but did not have any symptoms, and they develop COVID-19 symptoms within their isolation period, they must start a new 10 day isolation period by counting 10 full days from the day following the start of their symptoms.

Attendance

The government has made it explicitly clear that attendance to the academy is mandatory from your child's designated phased return date.

Home Testing

Following the completion of the three in-school COVID-19 tests, pupils and staff in secondary schools will be supplied with LFD test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home.

Staff and pupils must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff and pupils should also share their result with us to help with contact tracing.

Adolescents aged 12 to 17 should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary. Children aged 11 attending a secondary school should be tested by an adult.



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Safety Measures in School

The Academy will continue to implement a system of controls, creating a safer environment for pupils and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is reduced.

Following new government guidance as an additional precautionary measure, face coverings will now have to be worn in classrooms during this period of high coronavirus (COVID-19) prevalence in the community. We would therefore ask you to ensure that your child is adequately equipped with an appropriate face covering to support this measure. We would also reiterate government guidance on social distancing both in and out of the academy, we ask that you remind your children about the current measures in place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every single one of you, for your support in continuing your child's education during these extremely challenging times. The data we have on students accessing online learning and completing progress checks; shows an extremely positive picture well above the national average. We still have challenging times ahead but I feel confident that with your support we can make a positive transition to more 'normal' times.

Please keep yourself safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Gelder

Principal
For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust