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22 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Phased return to school to allow for testing of students

As part of the government's plan to keep the levels of Covid-19 suppressed as the student's return in September, we have been advised that all secondary schools' students will be offered two COVID-19 lateral flow tests from the first week back 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. **Your child's slot has been allocated by surname as per the table below:**

Year Group	Testing Date	Return Date and Time
7	Friday 3rd September Surnames beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A-D 09:00● E-I 09:45● J-N 10:30● O-Z 11:15	Monday 6 th September 08:20
11	Monday 6th September Surnames beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A-D 10:00● E-I 10:30● J-N 11:00● O-Z 11:30	Tuesday 7 th September 08:20
12	Monday 6th September 09:30	Tuesday 7 th September 08:20
13	Monday 6th September 09:00	Tuesday 7 th September 10:50
8	Tuesday 7th September Surnames beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A-D 09:00● E-I 09:30● J-N 10:00● O-Z 10:30	Wednesday 8 th September 08:20
9	Wednesday 8th September Surnames beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A-D 09:00● E-I 09:30● J-R 10:00● S-Z 10:30	Thursday 9 th September 08:20
10	Wednesday 8th September Surnames beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A-D 11:00● E-I 11:30● J-P 12:00	Thursday 9 th September 08:20

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 Wednesday 11th August** via the electronic form that can be accessed via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/GAS-COVID> or via the button on the homepage of the website 'Covid Testing Consent Form'. If you need a hard copy consent form for any reason please contact the school office.

Any pupils **not** undergoing testing should attend school on their phased **return date** as indicated in the table above and will **not** be required to attend school on the **testing date**.

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 the 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 and will be asked to obtain a confirmatory PCR test.

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 [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

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 two in-school COVID-19 tests, to support this endeavour, we request that pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. Pupils and staff in secondary schools will be supplied with LFD test kits to complete these self-swab tests.

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.

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.

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. Please keep yourself safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Gelder
Principal
For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust