



25 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all well. Despite how difficult the current situation is, as spring approaches the prospect of getting your child back into school is hugely exciting.

We want to get back to some form of normality as soon as possible, as I am sure you do, and currently we are planning for all students to have had their first Covid test by the end of Tuesday 9 March. This will allow us to be fully open on **Wednesday 10 March**. We will then provide a further three tests, each three to five days apart.

We will implement a phased return to ensure all students return the day after their first negative test result. The phased return will mean that by the morning of Wednesday 10 March all students will be back in school receiving face to face education.

I am very aware that many students will be excited about returning to school but also some will be apprehensive. We want to make sure every student's first day back in school is as normal as possible and not disrupted with testing. On the day of their first test, students should only come in for their test and then return home to continue remote learning for the rest of the day. (Apart from vulnerable children and children of critical workers).

Process for testing

When coming in for the Lateral Flow test, your child should make their way to the sports hall via the playground. To adhere to social distancing, each form groups will have a specific time to attend for their testing (**please see the table at the end of this letter**). At the testing site students will be provided with a registration form and a bar code and will be asked to register their details on the NHS Test and Trace system via a smart phone or device. If they have not got a smart phone or device they will be able to use a computer in school. Every student will need to input either a parent or carer's mobile number or email address along with the first line of their address and the postcode. Please ensure that they have this readily available.

Students taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow test is easy to undertake, either by using a swab of the nose and throat, just the nose or just the throat. The results take about 30 minutes and will be provided by the NHS Test and Trace via text or email.

We will directly inform the parent or carer of a positive test result. If your child tests positive on a lateral flow test you will be notified and they will need to self-isolate for 10 days, following the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

Tests are free of charge.

Please see the schedule at the end of this letter for the lateral flow testing from Friday 5 March and ensure your child comes in only for their designated time slot.

Consent for Lateral Flow Testing

If you have not already provided consent for the testing process please click on the following link [Covid-19 \(Lateral Flow Test\) Consent Form \(office.com\)](#)

If your child is experiencing any symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change of their sense of taste or smell) they must self-isolate and not attend school. Please arrange a PCR test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Home testing

We are aware that there are plans to facilitate home testing for both students and staff in secondary schools. As yet we do not know when this will happen, but government guidance is that schools will be supplied with enough LFD test kits to enable testing at home twice a week. When we know more about how this will work, I will be in contact again.

Social and emotional mental health support

As part of our 'recovery' curriculum, on Wednesday 10 March we will have an extended tutor session for all students when there will be the opportunity to access support and explore issues relating to their emotional well-being. It will be an opportunity to acclimatise to being back in school, catch up with friends in their form, reinforce the expectations of behaviour and conduct as well as prepare for learning in a face-to-face context.

Throughout the last six weeks, we have been working closely with our senior students to ensure we are supporting students' emotional health and well-being during this challenging time. We will continue to ensure that this remains a priority for us. The emotional well-being email address will remain active for any student who needs additional help or support around their well-being: wellbeingsupport@castle.somerset.sch.uk

Uniform and standards of behaviour

I know the period of lockdown has been a challenge. However, we need to ensure we try to return to normal school life as much as possible. I would like to reiterate that we expect uniform always to be worn correctly. There will be no exceptions to this so that our standards remain high for everyone and I thank you in advance for your support. As you know, I feel a smart appearance is important but also it helps students to keep that sense of belonging to the school, I also feel it encourages a sense of community, identity and pride. If you need any uniform, it can be ordered from the link [here](#) and collected on the day your child comes into school for their first test.

I value kindness, hard work and honesty, and expect everyone to behave according to those values. The expectations of behaviour in the school are clear and our recovery curriculum will support students to get this right, as we know the transition back into school will be difficult for some. We will be 'warm and strict' by following our behaviour policy with the appropriate sanctions but also balancing this with the necessary support when needed.

Additional Protective measures that will be in place

- Each year group will be 'bubbled' to minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate.
- Face coverings must be worn by adults and students when moving around the school premises outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas. **Face coverings must also be worn by students when in the classroom.** Face coverings do not need to be worn by students when outdoors on the school premises. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, please contact Mr Wordsworth.
- Regular hand sanitising will be expected throughout the day along with thorough hand washing.
- Good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- The site team will maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.
- Maintaining social distancing wherever possible.
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all the best as we move towards some form of normality both within school and the community.

Yours sincerely



Mr Lamb
Headteacher

Lateral flow testing schedule from Friday 5 March

| Date of first Lateral Flow Test | Year | Form | Time | Date of return to face-to-face teaching | |
|---------------------------------|------|---------|---------|---|---------|
| Friday 5 March | 11 | 11G | 9:00am | Monday 8 March | |
| | | 11O | 9:15am | | |
| | | 11M1 | 9:30am | | |
| | | 11M2 | 9:45am | | |
| | | 11R | 10:00am | | |
| | | 11B1 | 10:15am | | |
| | | 11B2 | 10:30am | | |
| | | 11Y | 10:45am | | |
| Monday 8 March | 8 | 8G | 8:45am | Tuesday 9 March | |
| | | 8O | 9:00am | | |
| | | 8M1 | 9:15am | | |
| | | 8M2 | 9:30am | | |
| | | 8R | 9:45am | | |
| | | 8B1 | 10:00am | | |
| | | 8B2 | 10:15am | | |
| | | | 8Y | | 10:30am |
| | | 10 | 10G1 | | 11:30am |
| | | | 10B | | 11:45am |
| | | | 10G2 | | 12 noon |
| | | | 10O | | 12:15pm |
| | | | 10M | | 12:30pm |
| | | | 10R | | 12:45pm |
| | 10Y1 | | 13:00pm | | |
| | 10Y2 | 13:15pm | | | |
| Tuesday 9 March | 7 | 7G1 | 8:45am | Wednesday 10 March | |
| | | 7G2 | 9:00am | | |
| | | 7O | 9:15am | | |
| | | 7M | 9:30am | | |
| | | 7R | 9:45am | | |
| | | 7B | 10:00am | | |
| | | 7Y1 | 10:15am | | |
| | | | 7Y2 | | 10:30am |
| | | 9 | 9R2 | | 11:30am |
| | | | 9G | | 11:45am |
| | | | 9M | | 12 noon |
| | | | 9O1 | | 12:15pm |
| | | | 9O2 | | 12:30pm |
| | | | 9B | | 12:45pm |
| | 9Y | | 13:00pm | | |
| | 9R1 | 13:15pm | | | |