

Dear Parents and Carers,

The keen-eyed amongst you will spot that this letter is very similar to the one I sent over Christmas, the reason being that **our plan is to replicate what we had planned in January but for it to be implemented now on 8th March**, in line with the recent governmental announcement. There are, however, some key differences and you will need to read the detail in this letter very carefully.

As the Secretary of State for Education endorsed in correspondence sent out to Heads yesterday, we will be implementing a **staggered start, from 8th March, to enable us to carry out mass lateral flow testing of all 1400 members of the school**. As mentioned in my letter about the intended January re-start, we have sufficient staff volunteers to run mass testing with a total of 29 staff involved in every session **including 3 nurses**. (In total, over 70 NTS staff have volunteered to assist on the testing days.) I am extremely grateful to all those who have stepped forward to help out here.

The sports hall, as you know, was set up over Christmas and the pods are still in place, complete with privacy screens, seating, desks, one-way systems etc. We have carried out a full risk assessment.

The plan now, then, is to test all 1400 members of the school in the first week (w/c 8th March) as follows:

- all staff on **Monday 8th March (when the school will be closed to pupils** except children of key workers and vulnerable children); we also need time on this day to train the staff volunteers to carry out the mass testing of children later in the week
- **Year 11 and 13 on Tuesday 9th** (who will then attend normal lessons provided they have tested negative). They will then attend normal lessons for the rest of the week.
- then the **other year groups in batches of c.320 per day on Wednesday to Friday**.

Tuesday 9th March (THIS ONLY APPLIES TO YEARS 11 & 13 who will be attending school as normal this week)

- **Year 11 to be tested in the first 2 hours starting at 9am – in this order:**
 - 11BI, 11CJ, 11CL, 11RC, 11KAM, 11VB, 11GCP, 11KLT, 11MJS, 11RD
- **Year 13 to be tested in P3 – in this order:**
 - 13CS, 13DJ, 13KR, 13LAH, 13PJ, 13PTC, 13SW
- We are looking into the possibility of splitting larger tutor groups over two adjacent rooms to increase social distancing (until the group has been tested).
- **Year 7 children of key workers & vulnerable pupils will be housed in C3 and tested in the afternoon. They will need to sign in at Reception as usual, and go straight to C3 (not their Form rooms).**

Arrangements regarding school transport for Year 11 and Year 13 during the week beginning 8th March are currently being finalised and will be sent out separately in the next few days.

Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th and Friday 12th:

Year groups will be tested in Form groups, at a rate of approximately 320 children per day, as follows:

Wednesday 10th – Year 7 and half of Year 10

Form	Arrival time
7KW	9.15am
7RCG	9.30am
7SC	9.45am
7REM	10.15am
7GYB	10.30am
7EC	10.45am
7JFP	11.35am
7SK	12.00pm
10KC	1.30pm
10DRF	1.55pm
10SYB	2.20pm
10RLB	2.45pm

CHILDREN AGED 11

We have been advised that children aged 11 may not be able to swab themselves effectively. We are asking, therefore, for ONE PARENT ONLY of each child aged 11 to accompany them throughout the process and to conduct the swabbing if their child is struggling. Those aged 12 and older can swab themselves.

Thursday 11th – Year 8 and half of Year 10

Form	Arrival time
8CF	9.15am
8BW	9.30am
8JP	9.45am
8RH	10.15am
8LSP	10.30am
8CCM	10.45am
8JAM	11.35am
8LJL	12.00pm
10GDC	1.30pm
10CT	1.55pm
10SR	2.20pm
10SB	2.45pm

Friday 12th – Year 9 and Year 12

Form	Arrival time
9IL	9.15am
9RA	9.30am
9LJP	9.45am
9RL	10.15am
9KSF	10.30am
9RSS	10.45am
9AA	11.35am
9KM	12.00pm
12MDS/IB	1.30pm
12AH	1.45pm
12ALN	2.00pm
12JRC	2.15pm
12AMH	2.30pm
12TH	2.45pm

Pupils may of course walk to school if this is what they normally do and can then walk straight home afterwards.

There will be no provision at school for these children (Year 7-10 and Year 12) to remain on site.

Once they have received their test result, they must leave the site immediately.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS

It is vital that your child brings with them a COMPLETED CONSENT FORM – full details will be sent out in the next few days.

Please bring your child to the **SPORTS HALL** as per the time slots above. **Please park in the car-park adjacent to the sports hall, off the High Street.** This will be set aside specifically for your use. Car-park attendants will be on hand to direct you/your child to the side entrance of the sports hall, where the process of testing begins.

Children should bring a warm coat and something to read when they come for testing. They will be required to wait for 20-30 minutes for the test result to come through.

Reminder:

Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students should attend for the whole of the first week, starting on the Tuesday 9th. Tuesday morning will be an extended Form Period to allow the testing to take place and children must bring with them work to do independently – revision, reading, homework etc.

Year 7-10 pupils and Year 12 students must only attend to be tested, as per the timings given above. There will be no provision for them at school outside these times. These children will be taught remotely, at home, as has happened in the past but may receive a reduced diet because many teaching staff will be involved in delivering the mass testing programme.

At the end of the test, your child will be given an information slip depending on the result (positive, negative or inconclusive). In the case of a test result that is inconclusive, the child will be re-tested immediately. If this proves inconclusive a second time, the child will need to leave site and get an NHS PCR test elsewhere. In the event of a positive result, the child will be given a letter with full instructions regarding isolation and will need to leave site/be collected immediately.

From Monday 15th March, ALL pupils will then be able to attend school, as normal.

Subsequent mass testing

We are obliged to test children three times, but on the second and third occasions, the tests can be conducted in a less controlled manner (because of the much reduced risk). These second and third tests will take place on Monday 15th and Thursday 18th at the beginning of the school day, with all pupils returning to normal lessons on completion.

School Examinations

You will receive separate correspondence about examinations.

There may be yet more changes to the planned re-opening of schools in March and I will of course update you as soon as I can. Please do keep an eye on *Facebook* and the school website over the coming days.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation during these difficult times – and for your patience.

Mr DS Northwood, Headmaster.