

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Lateral Flow Testing

What is the purpose of testing students?

Regular testing will offer an additional safety measure in addition to those already in place as a part of the national response to tackling the Coronavirus. As a school, we have been directed by the Government to facilitate this and want to do as much as we can to play our part in helping the community to be safe, keep children in school as much as we can and protect their education.

Will I have to pay for Lateral Flow testing of my child?

No. The Lateral Flow Testing service is provided free of charge as a part of the national response to tackling the Coronavirus.

Do parents and carers have to help their children to complete Lateral Flow testing ahead of the return?

No. The school is set-up as a Lateral Flow Test Site and has been testing staff and students on site since the 7 January. Students will be able to access testing on school site as a part of the return to school. Students will be shown how to self-test. This is a quick procedure. The school will offer three tests to students over the first three weeks, three to five days apart. Thereafter, students will be provided with home testing kits and parents and carers can support with testing at home.

After testing, how long will it take to get the results?

The results are confirmed within 30 minutes of being tested.

Who does the testing on site?

The students conduct the tests themselves under the supervision and guidance of Health Care Assistants who have been appointed by the school. School staff are also present throughout to support and guide students and manage the process.

How will you support students for testing if they have a Special Educational Need, a Disability, a medical need or similar?

We recognise that we may need to adapt our approach depending on the individual needs of each student. As this will be done on a case by case basis, we will be in touch if we feel this is the case for your child based on the information we currently hold. The process will be supported by our Inclusion Team. If there is a medical need or other information that you feel we may not be aware of and need to consider, please notify the school through the consent form being sent separately. If there is anything else we need to be made aware of, please contact the Head of Year. This is important not only for planning for the return, but also to ensure the correct pastoral and safeguarding support is in place more generally.

What do I do if I do not want my child to be tested?

We require your consent to test your child. We understand that in some instances, you will still have questions or possibly feel anxious about the process and require further reassurance, we will be very happy to have a one-to-one conversation with you to talk through your individual circumstances and reassure you as the greater the number of people tested, the greater the chance of picking up on asymptomatic cases. We have been running flow testing on site for a number of weeks and it is a well-established routine. However, if you do not wish to give consent you can indicate this on the consent form.

Face Coverings

Why will you be moving to students wearing face coverings in classrooms?

Students have been wearing face coverings in corridors and communal areas for some time now and have adapted remarkably well to doing so. You will be aware that schools have been directed by the Government to ensure students wear face coverings in classrooms for a limited period. This will be an additional measure in place to assist with tackling the Coronavirus and doing everything we can to keep children in school to protect their education.

Will my child be able to remove their face covering during the day?

Yes, students may remove their coverings at break and lunch time and during free periods should they wish to do so as long as they are outside and maintain social distance. Students may also remove masks in other contexts such as Games and PE lessons which are held outside. Staff will guide students on this.

Other questions

Will Parents' Evening and other parent events happen on site or virtually?

All parent and carer events will be held using online software for the foreseeable future. We will keep this under review. We will write to parents and carers for each year group directly, but please note that **Year 9 Parents' Evening and GCSE Options Evening will be held virtually.**

Which mock exams will be held for students in exam year groups?

Although the Government has announced some information in relation to exams, we are still awaiting clarity on many aspects of this. Once we have received this over the next week or so, we will be able to look at how this impacts on future mock examinations and the assessment calendar and make adjustments accordingly. We will let students in those Year groups know directly once we have clarity.

What should my child wear when they attend school?

Students must wear full school uniform in accordance with the usual rules.

My child has grown out of his/her clothing and I am unable to go to the shops for new clothing. What should I do?

School clothing can be obtained through online retailers and supermarkets which have remained open throughout the lockdown. We also hold spare uniform which we will be happy to give to families should they require this. **If you have any enquiries about uniform, please contact your child's Head of Year.**

