

# FAQs Parents

## **Testing**

To see the video walkthrough guide to taking a lateral flow test in the testing centre at school, please click [here](#).

### ***What is the purpose of lateral flow testing?***

Lateral flow testing is being implemented to identify people who are infectious but do not have any symptoms of Covid19 (asymptomatic). By doing this, those infected will know to self isolate and therefore reduce the transmission rate.

### ***What is the outcome for my child should I not consent to them being tested? Will they be excluded from school / lessons / separated from being with others?***

Testing is voluntary but strongly encouraged. If you do not consent to your child being tested at school, they will still attend school from the first day their year group returns to school for face to face lessons. They will still be part of their usual classes and lessons. This is in line with government guidance on lateral flow tests in Secondary Schools.

### ***When are you doing the tests?***

Students will be tested in year groups on set days. Students will be told the time of their tests by Friday 5th March.

Year 11 Test 1: Monday 8th March Test 2: Monday 15th March Test 3: Monday 22nd March	Year 10 Test 1: Tuesday 9th March Test 2: Tuesday 16th March Test 3: Tuesday 23rd March
Year 9 Test 1: Thursday 11th March Test 2: Thursday 18th March Test 3: Thursday 25th March	Year 8 Test 1: Friday 12th March Test 2: Friday 19th March Test 3: Friday 26th March
Year 7 Test 1: Wednesday 10th March Test 2: Wednesday 17th March Test 3: Wednesday 24th March	

### ***What will happen if there is a positive result from a lateral flow test?***

If a student tests positive from a lateral flow test, the student and parents will be informed and if required, the school track and trace process will be used.

If this is the first test, students will need to arrange for a PCR test to confirm the result and if this is positive, they should self isolate for 10 days according to the [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#).

If this is a subsequent test, the student will be immediately isolated to the designated isolation room.

Parents will be contacted and the student will be collected as soon as possible. We will implement our track and trace process and inform any students who have been in close contact with the student in the proceeding 48 hours to self-isolate for 10 days.

***My child has symptoms, can they do a test at school rather than booking one through the NHS?***

No - our Lateral flow testing centre is for asymptomatic testing only. The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms.

If your child has symptoms of Covid19 (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), they should self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines. Those with symptoms are also expected to [order a test online or visit a test site](#) to take a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus.

***What do we need to do to test our child at home using lateral flow tests?***

If you have given consent, your child will be issued with a home testing kit when they complete their 3rd lateral flow test in school. Further guidance on how to use these will be provided prior to this.

***Why does my child need 3 tests at school before testing at home?***

The guidance on lateral flow tests says that students are to complete 3 lateral flow tests in school before testing themselves at home. This is so they are used to conducting the tests having been supported under the supervision of our staff in the testing centre.

***The government says students need to be tested every 3-5 days but you are not doing this?***

The rationale for 3-5 days between tests is that there needs to be sufficient time between tests to validate the previous result as well as to support schools with students being able to test at home after they have completed their three tests (which would take around two weeks on this timeframe). We do not have the capacity to test more than 400 students a day and therefore cannot repeat the tests more frequently than weekly without some cohorts having to stay at home learning remotely for a further week. Therefore we have compromised on the frequency of tests in order to integrate all students into school and face to face learning. This is not at the expense of student health and safety - lateral flow testing is used to identify asymptomatic cases and anyone with symptoms should not attend school.

## **Masks**

***Should my child wear a mask in school?***

Public Health England currently recommend the use of face coverings in schools in all situations where social distancing is not possible. Therefore students and staff should wear a mask when travelling through buildings and in classrooms. This is in place initially until Easter when it will be reviewed by the government.

***My child is hearing impaired and lip reading is important to him?***

All staff will be provided with clear masks so that students who rely on lip reading are not disadvantaged.

***How can my child be in a mask all day long?***

Students will not need to wear their masks outside so they can be removed when not in the school buildings. We will also be scheduling mask breaks in the middle of each lesson to allow students to remove their masks briefly. This will be for a very short period (around 1 minute) and at a time when the class is silent to minimise risk of transmission through voice projection when talking.

***Should my child wear a mask when in practical PE or dance lessons?***

The use of face masks is not required when students are participating in practical PE or dance lessons. However, if your child wishes to, they can wear a face mask for these lessons as they would in classrooms.

***We were told it was safe not to wear a mask in class in Autumn, why has this changed now?***

The government has changed the guidance issued to schools and in order to support the return to face to face teaching, it was felt that the wearing of face coverings where social distancing cannot be adhered to in school buildings will mitigate against the risk of transmission. This also follows the increased awareness of new variants which are more transmissible and means there is a higher coronavirus prevalence in the community at present.

***How should my child ensure they are practicing safe handling of their mask?***

If students remove their face mask they should be either disposed of in the bins provided or if a reusable face covering, put it in a sealed plastic bag inside their school bag. Students should avoid touching the front of their face mask at all times, and only handle them using fastenings at the sides of the face. Students should wash/sanitise their hands after adjusting their face masks. This link from the World Health Organisation gives a clear demonstration of how to do this.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN\\_WTk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk)

## **School day**

***What time should students arrive at school?***

The start times for each year group are still being staggered as they were in September:

- School will be open from 8am and students should go to their designated zone until 8.20am when they can then head to their tutor bases.
- Years 7 & 8 should arrive at school by 8.20am and go to their tutor base.
- Year 9 & 10 should arrive at school at 8.30am and go straight to their tutor base.
- Year 11 should arrive at their tutor base by 8.40am.

We hope that this will help to address large numbers of students walking to school. Students will be reminded to use both sides of the road and be aware of social distancing.

***Can I drop my child off?***

We would ask that parents **DO NOT** drive onto the school site to drop students off. Wherever possible we are encouraging all students to either walk or cycle.

Click [here](#) to see the Park and Stride options available for Wildern Lane.

***What happens if my child travels into school on a bus?***

As parents are aware we do not have specific school buses and so any student using this form of public transport needs to follow the guidance as set by the government or bus company.

***What equipment should my child bring into school?***

All students should bring their own stationary equipment such as pens, pencils, rubbers, rulers, glue sticks, maths equipment, and for Year 9 - 11 fully charged Chromebooks. Specialist equipment will be provided and will have been cleaned prior to and after use, for example keyboards in ICT.

***Will the school be providing food?***

The school will provide food but this will be a limited menu, similar to one provided in the Autumn term.

***How will students purchase food safely?***

- As in the Autumn term, students can purchase food at both breaktimes from the designated servery for their year group
- Designated food stations for each year group are:
  - Year 7 - Canteen servery
  - Year 8 - Block 3 Pod
  - Year 9 - Dan's diner
  - Year 10 - Red dining hall
  - Year 11 - Main hall
- Students are advised to bring their own snacks as they see fit but they are advised not to share these with other students.

***Where will students eat their food?***

Each year group will be allocated a specific zone as part of their year group bubble, they will eat in these areas:

- Year 7 – Zone B - The Astro
- Year 8 – Zone D - Between Block 3 and 5
- Year 9 – Zone E - The Piazza
- Year 10 – Zone A - Tennis courts
- Year 11 – Zone C - The Muga and surrounding area

If it is raining students will be able to go to their tutor room to eat.

***Are students expected to wear their school uniform?***

All students are expected to return in full school uniform. The scientific advice is that uniforms do not have to be washed every day so normal routines can be followed. See below for PE and Dance uniform guidelines.

***What will happen during PE and changing?***

Any student who has PE or Dance on their timetable will be asked to wear their PE or Dance kit to school on that day. This should be in line with the PE and Dance uniform guidelines as outlined in the student planner. Students are able to wear black sports leggings or black tracksuit bottoms along with their Wildern jumper on colder days. From after Easter, students can wear their green PE shorts if they want to as the weather will hopefully be warmer.

***Are all year groups going to be in school at the same time?***

The government and the school expectation is that all students return to full time education. We will be staggering each year group returning to school to allow for all students to be tested prior to being in classrooms as per the guidance issued to schools.

***How do you intend to manage the movement around the school site?***

We are still using the one way system around the site created last September. Doors are clearly marked **IN** and **OUT** and students will be reminded of the one way system.

***Can students cycle to school?***

We actively encourage students to walk or cycle to school. All cycling is permitted and bikes stored in the normal location. Students should do this sensibly and avoid congregating in the bike shed area. Students are reminded to bring bike locks and wear helmets. Students are also encouraged to cycle considerately on the journeys to school and push their bikes once on the school site.

***Mobile Phones***

The school mobile phone policy still applies. Students who have their phone out during the school day without permission will have their phone confiscated. They will be asked to place their phone in an envelope and seal it.

***Will classrooms be cleaned after each lesson?***

Cleaning each room after each lesson will not be possible but students and staff will be required to sanitise their hands on entry and exit from the room. Sanitiser will be available in each room. There will be additional cleaning resources in each room if a student wishes to clean their own work space. This needs to be done sensibly and with the teacher's consent. All windows and doors will be open where possible to maintain ventilation. All rooms and desks will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day with high traffic points (such as door handles) being cleaned throughout the day.

***Attendance, what happens if I don't send my child to school?***

The expectation is that all students attend school unless they have a medical condition or are unwell. Contacting the school regarding absence will follow the same process as normal. The school will continue to adhere to its attendance policy from September with regard to absence, exceptional leave and local authority intervention.

- If a student is not attending school due to medical advice a letter from the NHS will need to be provided.
- If a student is not attending school due to a member of their household showing symptoms of Coronavirus or testing positive for Coronavirus then the DFE guidance on this [link](#) should be followed
- If a student is not attending school due to testing positive to COVID-19; then Public Health England advice will be followed.

***How will the school manage any poor behaviour?***

The school will maintain the same high expectations it has in regards to student behaviour. Detention systems will run in year group bubbles if needed and these will take place during break times and after school, with days allocated to certain year groups. On the rare occasion a student needs to be removed from a lesson, they will be allocated a space in another class of the same year group bubble where social distancing is applied and their seat number recorded. Parental meetings are restricted however meetings about supporting behaviour will still take place remotely.

***What will the school do if there is a reported case of Coronavirus?***

Should there be a case of Coronavirus in school the student or staff member will be immediately isolated to the designated isolation room.

Parents will be contacted and the student will be collected as soon as possible. The normal testing practice should then be followed by the family in the first instance. The school will then use the internal Track and Trace strategy to establish who the child/teacher has come into contact with. At each stage we will follow the Public Health England advice which is largely around testing and isolation for 10 days. We will not close the school unless advised to do so.

***How will you know who the student has come into contact with?***

We have strict seating plans in place for each classroom and these are kept centrally so we will know exactly where the infected student was sitting in every lesson.

***Can I come into the school to speak to a member of staff?***

As in the Autumn term, while we want to remain as open and welcoming as usual, parents and other visitors will not be able to arrive at reception unannounced. An appointment will need to be made with the member of staff concerned by telephoning the school. Our normal policy of responding to concerns via the telephone or in writing will still apply. If you are collecting a student you will need to report to Reception and follow the guidance and direction from the school receptionist.

***My child is anxious about being in school, where can I access support?***

As a school the wellbeing of our students and staff is of the utmost importance to us. We are aware that for many the transition back into face to face education will cause some anxiety and apprehension. The first day back in school will give students an opportunity to focus and reflect on the lockdown period and also ease them back into the updated practices and policies at school.

You may also wish to access additional support by contacting Students Services or your child's DoPA. The following websites may also be of help:

[Think Ninja](#)

[Young Minds](#)

[Mind](#)

[Action for Children](#)

[Young Peoples Wellbeing Service YPWS – Teenage Drop-In Center](#)

***Will you be offering extracurricular activities and clubs, where can I find out about these?***

We will be offering as many of our extracurricular activities as we are able to in line with government guidance after Easter. Students can find out which clubs and activities are taking place by speaking to their subject teacher or their Tutor.

***When will school trips start again?***

The government continues to advise against domestic (UK) overnight and overseas educational visits at this stage. We will review our trips policy in the summer term and begin to offer these as soon as we are able to do so safely.