



23rd February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Assalaamu Alaikum (Peace Be Upon You),

I am writing to provide an update on your son's learning over the next few weeks.

School Reopening

On Monday evening, the Prime Minister announced that schools will start to reopen from Monday 8th March onwards. Over the next two weeks, pupils will follow their usual timetable from home (online via MS Teams). The children of key workers and vulnerable learners will continue to attend school.

On **Monday 8th March**, all pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 will return to school. All pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 will continue with online lessons on this day. The school day will revert to its original timings, **8am-3pm**, from this day (a reminder of the timetable will be sent to you next week).

On **Tuesday 9th March**, Year 7, 8 and 9 will also return to school.

I will write to you again next week to outline the specific arrangements for your son's return to school, including a reminder of the expectations of all pupils (due to COVID-19). All pupils must wear their full school uniform. Please ensure you purchase any necessary uniform from Stevensons – they have enough stock.

In the meantime, during his online lessons, please continue to encourage your son to participate fully. In particular, please ensure that he:

- Goes to bed on time during school nights and has a good routine for learning, play, prayer and rest.
- Wakes up on time, has breakfast, gets dressed and is ready to learn by 8.00am each morning.
- Has a break and lunch at the allocated time on his timetable, stepping away from his device.
- Stays focused during his lessons and completes all of the activities given by the teacher.
- Completes all of the homework tasks given to him.

COVID-19 Testing in School

When your son returns to school, he will be offered a 'lateral flow test' for COVID-19.

The test will be supervised by trained school staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. The test is quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. Results are available within 30 minutes and will be shared directly with participating pupils and their parents.

We will be testing all participating pupils three times - twice during their first week back and once more during the second week back. After this initial testing, pupils will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help pupils to remain in school safely. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it. Please find additional information about the testing on page 3 of this letter. Thank you to those parents who have given consent and completed the form sent out last half term. If you wish to change your consent, please inform the school via email by **Tuesday 2nd March**.



GCSE and Vocational (OCR) Examinations

As you are aware, the Government has announced that GCSE exams would no longer go ahead this summer. Instead, teachers will be asked to issue grades based on tests completed in school and the exam boards will check that these grades have been issued correctly. The regulatory body in charge of examinations, Ofqual, is due to publish detailed guidance very soon on how teachers should decide these grades.

When he returns to school, your son will be asked to complete tests for each subject. Based on the final Ofqual guidance, these tests may be used by your son's teachers to decide his grade.

The first set of tests are scheduled during week commencing 8th, 15th and 22nd March. The timetable for these assessments will be shared with your son.

Please note that the tests completed in March will not be the final assessments – there will be more tests after Easter so that your son can continue to demonstrate his grade. Your son's teachers will deliver revision lessons before each test and share information about the assessment so that he can prepare adequately. The aim is to give pupils the best possible chance to demonstrate their learning and maximise their grade.

It is understandable that pupils in exam classes will feel anxious and uncertain about their grades. However, please reassure your son that **participating fully in lessons, completing all homework and trying his best in every assessment** will help to improve his grade and achieve the best possible result in the summer. We are committed to working as hard as possible to ensure that none of our pupils are disadvantaged by the cancellation of exams.

Bus/Meal Payments

The school has not charged any parents for the bus service during the lockdown and those that made an early payment have received their refund. **The payment for the 3 weeks for this half term where the bus service will be operating will be added to the next half term's bus payments.** This will be added to ParentPay in the coming weeks.

The payment for the school meals for the remainder of this half term (3 weeks) will also be added to ParentPay in the coming weeks. If you wish for your son to have a school meal when the school reopens, please make this payment by **Thursday 4th March.**

Laptops Return

If your son has borrowed a laptop, please return the device to the school reception office on his first day back at school.

If you have any queries or concerns, or need support in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school and our efforts on behalf of your son. Please continue to remember all of our pupils and staff in your prayers.

Yours sincerely,



Majid Ditta
Principal

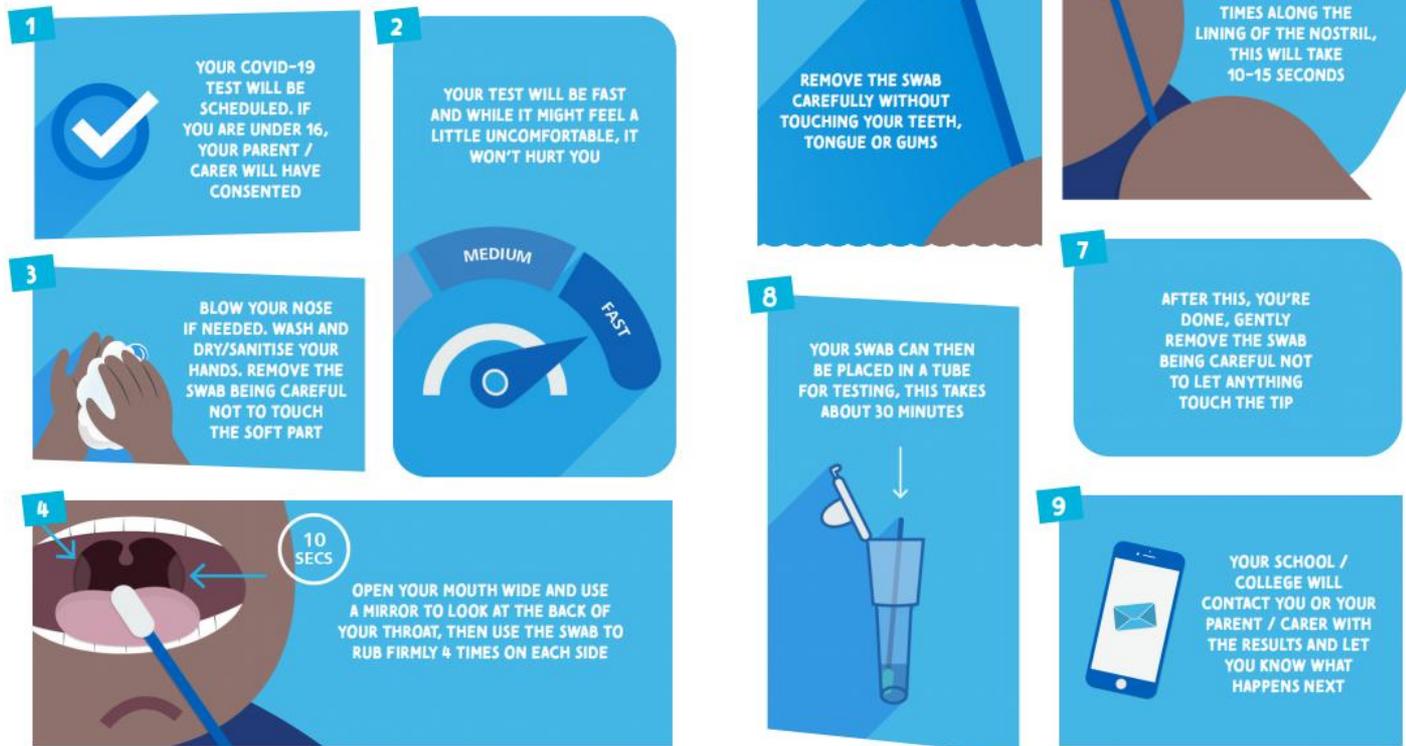
Additional Information



Test and Trace

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED



Do these tests work?

In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, these tests were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity, but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

If you test positive, you will need to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

A pupil testing negative will be able to stay in school and continue their learning as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

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 (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.