

Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers

24/08/2021

Following recent announcements by the Government, the school have been notified of the arrangements we have to put in place for a safe return to school next term.

Given the current uncertainties around the COVID-19 situation, the Government wants to help schools to be prepared for all scenarios when term starts after the summer holidays. This means that secondary schools have to set up Asymptomatic Test Sites (ATS) on site from the start of the autumn term.

All pupils in the school will be offered **two** Lateral Flow tests on the school site, spaced 3-4 days apart, at the start of the autumn term. This will help to identify cases of COVID-19 and stop transmission to support the return to school – particularly as most pupils will not be testing over the summer and will need to re-establish the habit of regular twice weekly testing. Pupils will be able to return to face-to-face teaching as long as their first test is negative.

In order for your child to receive a test, we need your consent.

If you have yet to complete this online consent form please do so as a matter of urgency:

<https://forms.gle/Xe2zf7fRL66zpboy7>

The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose. Members of staff will oversee the swab process.

We will only notify you if the test is positive, if not you can assume the result was negative.

We strongly recommend that all parents give their consent for tests to take place as this is an important strategy in helping to keep the school and wider community safe.

We have been running testing successfully at school since January 2021 with both staff and pupils. It is a simple, self-administered process and should not be the cause of anxiety for pupils or parents.

As a consequence of this, the arrangements for Thursday 2nd September have been amended.

Pupils will arrive at different times and when they arrive they will complete their first Lateral Flow Test and have their photograph taken for the ID card.

Pupils should arrive at school according to the following schedule and **in full school uniform**:

| Arrival Time | Tutor Groups |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 8.30am | Adam and Banks |
| 9.00am | Dickens and Gresham |
| 9.30am | Hogarth and Jenner |
| 10.00am | Kent and Palmer |
| 10.30am | Sheridan and Turner |

Pupils will be dismissed at 3.20pm.

COVID – 19 contact tracing and isolation

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes is that schools will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

Self-isolating and taking a test

If your child has symptoms, **she/he must self-isolate straight away** and get a PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) on GOV.UK as soon as possible.

If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, **your child should self-isolate** – and you should inform the school. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons).

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons



Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Students aged under 18 years 6 months who have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.

As a final note, **could I please remind you that students should not come into school if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.** This testing programme at The Heathland 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Best wishes

Mr H.S. Pattar
Headmaster

Mr S.S. Gill
Senior Deputy Head (Pupil Support)

Mr J.M. Rose
Deputy Head (Resources & Community)

Mrs M. Sandu
Deputy Head (Curriculum)

Senior Management Team