

25th February 2021

Dear parents/carers

After much deliberation, we have decided - in collaboration with Areté Learning Trust - upon the following plan for meeting the government's demanding challenge of testing all students three times, three to five days apart upon their return. In formulating this plan, we have tried to:

- ensure we can use our own staff - who know the students best and can help set them at ease - to carry out the testing;
- avoid excessive delays for individual year groups returning to face-to-face education;
- avoid a situation where the school is trying to simultaneously educate and mass test, and consequently not doing either to the best of our ability;
- make the testing process as safe, supportive and efficient as possible.

I recognise there are many ways to approach this situation and can only stress that ours has been done in the best interests of our children. It requires your help as parents in ensuring that your child(ren) attends their testing appointments. This means they will receive significantly more face-to-face teaching in the first week compared to if we had undertaken a much slower rolling programme of testing while children were also present in school. Thank you for supporting us to achieve this task.

The plan is as follows:

Date	Educational Provision
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Staff training for testing No students in school except critical worker/vulnerable children No live lessons, but a full programme of learning set via google classroom for all timetabled lessons
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Test Day 1 for all students No students in school except critical worker/vulnerable children No live lessons, but a full programme of learning set via google classroom for all timetabled lessons
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	All students <u>in all year groups</u> in school for face-to-face learning unless your child has received a positive LFT result.
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Test Day 2 for all students No students in school except critical worker/vulnerable children No live lessons, but a full programme of learning set via google classroom for all timetabled lessons

<b>Monday 15th March</b>	Test Day 3 for all students No students in school except critical worker/vulnerable children No live lessons, but a full programme of learning set via google classroom for all timetabled lessons
<b>Tuesday 16th March onwards</b>	All students in all year groups in school permanently (we hope!)

Alongside this letter, there is also a consent form for testing and a privacy notice. We ask for your support to ensure this is completed and submitted by **9am on Monday 1st March and we ask that you respond even if you do not give consent.**

Following this, next week, we will be able to send further details regarding the testing process and times.

**Please note, critical worker and vulnerable students who are currently attending school will still be able to do so on the testing days.**

We have been overwhelmed by support from our parents/carers during this pandemic; we thank you so much for your appreciation of the work we have done and of the hurdles we have faced. Together, we will meet this latest challenge effectively and get back to doing what we do best: teaching your children.

Yours faithfully



**Mrs V E Rahn**  
Head of School