

Dear Parents / Carers

You will have seen that students are to return to school in the week beginning Monday 8th March.

Please be aware that we are then expected to conduct Lateral Flow tests on students for whom we have received consent, although there is some confusion about whether we conduct two or three tests, and the timeframe we have for completing these. Schools have been given the opportunity to stagger students' return day, which we believe is so we can, if possible, test each student on the first day of their return. Any student testing positive will need to be collected from school asap and isolate at home. The same applies to anyone identified as a close contact of a positive case.

It has also been announced that after that initial testing, all students will be supplied with home testing kits so that regular home testing can be carried out. We'll give you more detail as and when it arrives.

In light of all this we will formulate a plan over the next few days, and let you know exactly what we intend to do once it is finalised. The crucial factor in our decision making is us being able to accurately predict the capacity we have to test large numbers of pupils. Thank you to the group of parents who have volunteered to help with this, as without them we would be in an incredibly difficult position.

Please be aware that if you have not returned the consent form sent out early in term, we will not be able to test your child. Also, please be aware that this is not compulsory, and no one has to agree to being tested; those students not being tested are able to return to school at the same time as everyone else.

At this point please be patient, and we will be in touch with arrangements for all students' return to school soon.

Tim Gibbs