

ABM/DPH

26th February 2021

Dear Parents or Carers,

Wider school opening and NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing

I hope that you and your family are safe and well at this time. The government announced at the start of this week that schools across our country will be opening to all learners from 8th March 2021. We have continued to be updated with additional guidance around this wider opening and are now able to share our plans for welcoming your child back to school.

We will continue to work to keep our academy as safe as possible. You may have heard, testing for those without coronavirus symptoms will be taking place across all schools and colleges in the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests, known as 'lateral flow tests'. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing, we will help to stop the virus spreading and help to keep our academy open as safely as possible. The testing is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone who will be attending our school to take it. Most of our students who have continued to attend our academy during this period of lockdown, as part of our key worker and vulnerable learner group, have received regular testing throughout this period and will continue to do so over the next three weeks. The key worker and vulnerable students will continue to attend as normal until their whole year group returns, when they should attend through their allocated entrance at their allocated time.

For all other students who have not been attending during lockdown, we will be testing those who want to participate before their return to school from 8th March 2021. Testing will be offered free of charge for whom consent has been provided. Students will attend our site for a test on their year group day, detailed below.

Testing day

On their designated testing day, students are to arrive at the academy at their allotted time. We will be writing to parents / carers again to confirm the individual tutor group test timings in the coming days. For the testing day only, students do not need to wear their academy uniform. They will enter the site from the main reception area, wearing a face covering (unless they have an exemption card), and will be guided to the testing area where they will administer their test with direction from our qualified team. Once they have completed their test, students will be asked to leave the academy and go home. Staff will work with students to ensure that they will socially distance themselves from all staff and other students during their time on site. We would ask that our parents / carers impress upon their children the need to ensure they take responsibility to socially distance themselves from others (not in their home bubbles) on the way to and from the academy. Notification of results will be emailed later on the same day. In the event of a positive test (indicating that your child has Covid-19) the academy will contact you as soon as we become aware.



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Return to learning days

We will be welcoming children back to face to education on a phased basis following individual year group testing. On their designated return to learning days (see below), students are expected to attend the academy at their usual starting times (8:40am for students in Year 7, 8, 9 & 11 and 8:50am for students in Years 10). Students must arrive on time, wearing full academy uniform perfectly, bringing with them their bag, equipment and face covering. Please contact the academy if you require any support with this. Students in the year group returning to the academy will continue to attend school in person from their return to learning day.

Face coverings

All students will be expected to wear face coverings when in internal areas of the academy which now includes classroom areas, where they are not able to socially distance themselves from others. These are mandatory at our school unless your child has an exemption card which they must carry with them at all times.

Calendar for return

	Testing Day (at allotted time)	Return to learning day.	Year groups in school for face-to-face lessons	Year groups receiving remote learning offer
Friday 5 March 2021	Year 11 (Timings will be confirmed separately)			Year 7, 8, 9, 10 (Year 11 uploaded work)
Monday 8 March 2021	Year 10 (Timings will be confirmed separately)	Year 11 arriving no later than 8:40am, entering at the Daylesford Road entrance.	Year 11	Years 7, 8, 9 (Year 10 uploaded work)
Tuesday 9 March 2021	Year 7 (Timings will be confirmed separately)	Year 10 arriving no later than 8:50am, entering at the Evenlode Road entrance.	Years 10, 11	Years 8, 9 (Year 7 uploaded work)
Wednesday 10 March 2021	Year 8 (Timings will be confirmed separately)	Year 7 arriving no later than 8:40am, entering at the Daylesford Road entrance.	Years 7, 10, 11	Year 9 (Year 8 uploaded work)
Thursday 11 March 2021	Year 9 (Timings will be confirmed separately)	Year 8 arriving no later than 8:40, entering at the Evenlode Road entrance.	Years 7, 8, 10, 11	(Year 9 uploaded work)
Friday 12 March 2021		Year 9 arriving no later than 8.40am, entering at the Daylesford Road entrance	All years	

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information around how the testing process works. Our online consent form can be accessed [here](#). Consent forms should be completed by **9am on Thursday 4th March 2021 and will provide consent for testing for three weeks**. We would recommend that you have a conversation with your child at home in preparation for testing. Through

returning this form electronically, we will be able to swiftly prepare for testing your child. If you require any support in completing this form please contact Mrs. Lees, Office Manager at Lyndon School, using the email: office@lyndon.org.uk

Both students and staff taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow tests' are quick and easy using a swab of their nose and throat. Please note: to support social distancing, we request that parents or carers do not accompany students onto the academy site for this test.

What if the test completed in school is positive?

We will contact parents or carers to discuss arrangements around your child and members of your home bubble needing to self-isolate for a 10-day period.

What happens if the test completed in school is negative?

If the test result is negative, your child will be expected to attend school from the following day. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason. In instances where a student has not been tested by choice – they will be expected to attend school from the return to learning day for their year group.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

We are carrying out a safety-first approach to testing to avoid this scenario, as if a close contact at school tests positive, they will also have to self-isolate for 10 days. Measures will be put in place to mitigate against students coming into close contact with other students and staff members and we ask that you counsel your child to ensure that this does not happen during their journey to and from school for testing.

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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Remote learning

To allow us to fully prepare for the wider opening of our school, remote learning will continue for those students who are awaiting their return until Thursday 11 March 2021, with all year groups attending the academy from Friday 12 March 2021. **To support us with testing and our preparations, work will be uploaded for all students on Wednesday 3 March 2021 but there will be no live lessons on that day.** On each year group's testing day, there will be work provided, but there will be no live lessons for that year group on that particular day.

Safety briefings which will include details around the testing procedures at the academy will be taking place remotely with all students prior to their return and we will shortly be contacting all learners so they are able to attend these to fully prepare for their return.

We are really looking forward to welcoming your child back to school and thank you for your support in ensuring that we can keep all members of our community as safe as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Mr A Butt
Principal