



OLDFIELD
SCHOOL

Ref: MKS/Re-opening

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you regarding the School's plans for the return of students from Monday 8th March 2021.

We are allowed to bring students back to school from Monday 8th March onwards, with the expectation that as they return they are tested with a lateral flow test before they return to lessons and are then tested again, in school, on two further occasions.

We are not permitted to start the testing process prior to Monday 8th March, therefore we will be implementing a staggered return to school from March 8th onwards with the intention of carrying out an initial test for all students in order that all year groups can return to school by Wednesday 10th March. We will then carry out the second and third test once all students have returned, with a 3 - 5 day gap between testing.

We have the capacity to test up to four year groups a day and we will be finalising our plans for the testing schedule this week. I will write to you again later in the week with more details on when each year group will be tested and the arrangements for this. I can confirm that the Sixth Form, Year 11 and Year 10 students will be the first to be tested. Students will be invited to school for a test appointment, they will then leave school after the test and return the following day to start their in-school lessons. This will ensure that we do not have students mixing on the way to school and before school prior to being tested. This will mean that we will require parents to bring their children to school for the scheduled testing appointment and take them home again once the test has been completed, unless they are able to travel to school independently. We will not permit students to travel to school on the dedicated buses on the day of their first test to prevent transmission by any asymptomatic students before they are tested. If your child has symptoms, or anyone in your household has symptoms, then do not send your child to school for their lateral flow test as these are only for asymptomatic testing.

We are required to ask parents to give consent for their children to be tested and will be asking you to do so via a Google form to be returned by tomorrow at the latest. Please click [here](#) to give your consent.

An information sheet about lateral flow testing is attached to this letter. Testing will not be compulsory and students will be allowed to return to school if parents do not give consent but I cannot emphasise enough the importance of having all of the school community participate in this mass testing

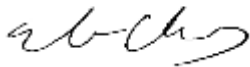
programme, as it will be the most important measure we implement to keep our staff, students and their families safe when we fully open.

I will also be writing to you to update you on any other changes that need to be implemented in response to changes to the Government's coronavirus guidance. In summary, little has changed from the previous guidance, other than a requirement for masks to be worn in lessons; which is something that we had already implemented in the autumn term. Therefore all of the arrangements in place in school to mitigate against risk prior to the current lockdown will remain in place. This includes the requirement that students do not share equipment, therefore I would remind you of this to give you time to re-stock your child's stationery before they return to school.

I am sure that you are relieved and pleased that students will shortly be returning to school for their lessons. I know that all of the staff at the school are looking forward to having our students back and we are hoping that this will be on a permanent basis for the remainder of this year.

I will write to you with more detail about the testing arrangements and also update parents on the A-Level and GCSE grading arrangements once these are shared with schools later this week.

Best wishes and stay safe.



Steven Mackay
Headteacher