



4th March 2021

Dear Parent /Carer

Following on from last week's newsletter, I would just like to confirm the final arrangements for the reopening of Lady Lumley's School from Monday 8th March. As I explained, the reopening to all students will need to be phased in order to allow us to carry out the mass testing of students and staff:

Monday 8th March - all students in Years 11, 12 and 13 will return

Tuesday 9th March - all students in Years 7 and 10 will return

Wednesday 10th March - all students in Years 8 and 9 will return

Testing Arrangements

As I am sure you can appreciate, even with a phased return, the logistics of mass testing large numbers of students on any given day will provide us with a huge challenge. It is logistically impossible for us to keep students apart until they have received their test results and many students will of course have travelled into school together. On returning to school, students will return straight back to the classroom and attend normal lessons. To try and reduce mixing students should go straight to period 1 rather than to their tutor group room. Sixth form students must come into school for testing even if they would normally have a study period. They will remain in year group bubbles throughout the day and be called for testing by tutor group. As I said last week, there is a chance that a student who is asymptomatic will test positive and at that point both they and any close contacts from throughout the day will unfortunately have to go home to self-isolate.

Lateral Flow Testing

Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD)s helps to identify those who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus symptoms. Our testing centre is already established and has been testing staff and key worker and vulnerable children in school. The lateral flow test involves students swabbing their nose and throat and trained staff will be on hand to assist. I appreciate this may cause some students to feel anxious and please get in touch with the pastoral team if your child is worried so they can reassure in school.

Registering a test

All students will be given a registration card when they attend for testing which is taken away with them at the end of the test. Students in Year 9-13 can register themselves but for students in Year 7-8, parents will need to register on behalf of the student when they return home from school. You can register and log the results by scanning the QR code on the registration card on a smart phone/tablet and follow the instructions – a separate guide to registering and logging results is also attached to this email. All results will need to be logged with NHS Test & Trace within 24 hours of the student taking the test. Once the test is logged, students/parents will receive a text or email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

Home testing

Following the first 3 tests in school, students will be provided with 2 rapid tests to use each week at home. Results will then need to be reported to NHS Test and Trace, as well as providing Lady Lumley's School with details of void or positive tests. More details will follow on this.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by school and their parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect them immediately from school. Students testing positive are not allowed to travel home by bus.

There is no longer a requirement to do a confirmation PCR lab test and the students who have tested positive must self-isolate for the remainder of the day and the next 10 days.

All members of their household will also immediately need to self-isolate for the remainder of the day and the next 10 days.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Students will be informed immediately if they test positive, so no news is good news!

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive following a lateral flow test?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school. All close contacts will need to self-isolate for a period of 10 days. Unless the close contact also tests positive or starts to display symptoms of COVID 19 no other member of the household will need to self-isolate. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at Lady Lumley's School is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate along with the rest of the household, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Consent

Although testing is voluntary, to help break chains of transmission and manage the virus, we strongly encourage your child to take part. I am very pleased to report that we have already had a superb response from parents providing consent for testing. If you have not done so already, I would be grateful if you could complete the consent before 9 a.m. on Friday 5th March. I would like all parents/carers to complete this form to either give your consent for testing or indicate you do not give consent. **A 100% return from parents is vital in assisting us with our planning.**

Please follow the blue link below for parents (Year 7-11) and students (Year 12-13) to complete the electronic consent form. Please also read the Terms of Consent and Privacy Statement on the school website under 'News' – 'Covid19'.

[Year 7](#) student consent form

[Year 8](#) student consent form

[Year 9](#) student consent form

[Year 10](#) student consent form

[Year 11](#) student consent form

[Year 12 & 13](#) student consent form

Remote Learning

It is pleasing that the vast majority of students have engaged with remote learning, which has enabled them to continue making progress during this period of closure.

We will continue to set work for students who will still be at home on the Monday and Tuesday in the usual way. Live support will continue through Itslearning, but the support usually offered through Microsoft Teams may not be available as all teaching staff will be in school and I am not convinced the school network will cope adequately with multiple Teams support sessions!

Transport

School buses will run as normal starting on Monday 8th March. There will be reduced number of 128 buses from Scarborough with only 1 of 4 running on Monday and 3 of 4 running on the Tuesday. **It is important that students get on the first available 128 bus.** From Wednesday, all four 128 Scarborough buses will run. The buses will be numbered 1 to 4 and students must catch the bus they were allocated on to before lockdown.

Students will continue to need to wear face coverings on school transport and public buses and to walk or cycle to school if possible. Students should sit in the same seats on school transport to minimise contact. If your child walks to school, please encourage them not to walk in groups, especially outside of their own year group.

Year 11 Lunchtime arrangements

Year 11 students will need to remain on the school site at lunchtime.

Face Masks

Following the updated government guidance, face coverings will be expected in classrooms as well as in corridors and communal indoor areas. The wearing of face coverings in classrooms is being introduced for a limited time until Easter. Face masks will not need to be worn during strenuous activity, for example PE lessons, or outdoors.

The vast majority of students have worn face masks correctly at all times. There is a very small minority of students who may be exempt due to a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability or where wearing a face covering causes severe distress. We will liaise with parents and support children where there is a genuine reason.

Social distancing

Even within 'bubbles', students must still practice social distancing where possible. They must avoid physical contact; being close and face-to-face; and shouting close to others.

Uniform & Equipment

Students will be expected to wear full school uniform on their return. Please ensure any facial piercings are removed and hair colours are natural. We do have a good stock of new shoes and some clean items of uniform so if there are any issues please contact the Pastoral team. Your child may wish to bring a personal hand sanitiser.

Best wishes.



Stuart Cleary
Acting Headteacher