



24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to the many of you who have already volunteered to help in our Lateral Flow Testing Centre. We do still need many more parents and other members of our community to assist, so please continue to spread the word.

We are following the DfE guidance, published on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, on testing and school reopening. This gives secondary schools the week starting 8<sup>th</sup> March to test students and operate a phased return to on-site learning during this week.

All secondary students should be offered three Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs), 3-5 days apart, from 8<sup>th</sup> March. This will potentially involve over 4000 tests for The Piggott School in the space of two weeks.

The year groups will be divided into cohorts for testing, starting with the elder children (as per DfE guidance) and working down the age range. This will make it possible for us to administer the tests between three and five days apart.

Students will start on-site lessons the day after taking their first test. For example, if Year 13 students are tested on Monday they will commence on site lessons on Tuesday.

We will send further details of the testing plan, together with proposed return dates for each year group, once the staffing, construction and logistics of the testing centre are firmed up. I would hope to send this to parents early next week.

## Testing schedule

Testing is restricted by the number of testing bays we can build and staffing. We need two or three volunteers for each bay. Each bay can test 8-10 students per hour, operating for 5 to 6 hours per day, so approximately 50 students per testing bay each day. We will aim to test 500 - 600 children per day so that all year groups can be tested in the week starting 8<sup>th</sup> March. This is dependent upon having enough volunteers to oversee testing.

## Is testing mandatory?

Testing is voluntary. If a student does not take a test on the day their year group is tested, then they would start their on-site lessons the next day with their year group. Consent forms for LFT have been sent to parents and I ask that you complete these promptly.

## Will my child still attend online lessons until they return to school?

Lessons will still take place remotely for students prior to the return to on-site lessons. There will be some transition days at the end of next week, so that staff can set up their classrooms and undertake preparation for dual teaching (on-site and remotely for different year groups) and the transition back to full on-site teaching.



## Why do you need volunteers?

As lessons will still be taking place remotely and on-site, most of our staff will be busy with teaching and support roles. We also have a number of staff unavailable, especially due to pregnancy, illness or shielding, whose lessons will need covering. We therefore need a substantial number of volunteers for the testing to take place so that children can return to school.

## Why can't we do a test at home?

The DfE guidance is that students are to be tested at school under the guidance of a trained tester so that they learn how to administer the test themselves. After undertaking three tests at school, students will be issued with home testing kits.

## I am a key worker. Will my child continue to go to school?

Yes, key worker school remains open during the week of 8<sup>th</sup> March whilst the year groups are phased back into school. When their year groups are back on-site, the children will join their peers in on-site lessons.

We are as eager as you are to see your children return to school, and with your help we hope to make this transition swiftly.

Yours faithfully

D J Gray  
Headteacher

Guidance from the letter to parents on 23<sup>rd</sup> February which remains relevant:

- The national shielding list has been extended, so, if you have received a new notification from NHS regarding your child, please do let the school know.
- Our risk assessments are being updated and will be posted on our website after consultation with staff.
- National guidance is that face masks should now be worn, where social distancing is not possible, within all areas of the school (except in strenuous physical activity such as PE lessons) by staff and children; this includes classrooms. This is temporary guidance until Easter; to be reviewed then by DfE. I continue to seek clarity on whether this guidance includes outdoor areas – 'all' implies that it does.
- The OfQual consultation outcome is due tomorrow, Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February. We will all then hopefully have a clearer picture on the process for the Teacher Assessed Grades which will replace examinations this year for Years 11 & 13.



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