

19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## Arrangements for September

Dear Parents and Carers

Following Government guidelines we will be offering all students two on site lateral flow tests on their return to school in September. To help facilitate this testing programme, we will need to stagger the return date for students. Each student who has consented to in school testing, will take part in two LFD tests which are spaced 3-5 days apart. Students will remain in their form group until the entire year group has completed their first test on the first day of their return.

Transport arrangements will be in place as normal for all children at the start of the academic year.

All students who participate in asymptomatic testing must have parental consent. Students may withdraw their consent and not participate, even if their parents have consented. No child will be forced or coerced into taking an LFD test. If you have already provided consent for your child, you do not need to provide consent again. Parents of Year 7 children will be invited to consent in a separate letter. **If you wish to change your previous selected consent option or didn't originally respond**, please use the below link to the consent form.

<https://forms.gle/8KwWKyF6QmzzQyes5>

### September Testing schedule

	Monday 6th	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 8th	Thursday 9th	Friday 10th
Return to school	11 & 7	10	8	9	
Test 1	11 & 7	10	8	9	
Test 2				11	7 & 10
	Monday 15th				
Test 2	8 & 9				

**The LFD testing is for asymptomatic testing only and should not be used by anyone who is displaying symptoms.** If your child develops any symptoms of coronavirus (continuous cough, fever, loss of taste or smell) you should ensure they do not attend school and should arrange for a PCR test either at a test site or through a home test kit.

### Control measures

In line with Step 4 of the Government's roadmap, the Department for Education has updated operational guidance for September. Full details of the guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

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The most significant changes are that **students will no longer need to remain in Year group bubbles** and some of the limitations around accessing the curriculum have been removed.

As a result, we will be returning to our normal timetable from September, the timings of which are below:

8.55 - 9.25 - Registration

9.25 - 10.25 - Period 1

10.25 - 11.25 - Period 2

11.25 - 11.40 - Break

11.40 - 12.40 - Period 3

12.40 - 1.25 - Lunch

1.30 - 2.30 - Period 4

2.30 - 3.30 - Period 5

To help reduce the risk of infection the school will continue to employ a one way system and students will be able to enter their classroom straight away to avoid lining up outside. The school will aim to increase ventilation by ensuring that windows and doors remain open. Enhanced cleaning measures will remain in place and students will also be required to frequently wash their hands or use sanitiser at regular intervals throughout the day.

The DFE has recommended that face masks are no longer required in school. The school will allow students who may wish to wear a facemask to do so, as long as it is worn correctly and safely. The school reserves the right to ask students to remove face masks who persistently wear them incorrectly.

### **Track and Trace**

From today July 19<sup>th</sup>, schools will no longer be asked to conduct contact tracing. This will now be conducted by NHS Track and Trace.

### **Self-isolating and taking a test**

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform the school. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform the school. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they

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and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.

3. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.
4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the school during term time.

### **Contact tracing**

5. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.
6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

### **Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts**

7. At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.
8. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.
9. **From 16 August, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take an PCR test immediately**, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and **they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test**. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

### **Home testing over the Summer**

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Public Health England are urging households to continue with twice weekly testing over the summer period. Schools are unable to provide test kits but they are available from Norfolk pharmacies, libraries and can be ordered online at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/covidtesting](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/covidtesting). Please see the letter from Louise Smith, Director of Public Health

I appreciate that this has been an incredibly difficult year for students and families and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout the year. I hope you have a wonderful summer break with your families and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours sincerely



Helen Watts  
Principal

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