

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Following last night's announcements about students returning to school we are now working hard to ensure plans are in place to ensure we respond to the updated guidance and keep "Team Sherburn" as safe as possible.

The updated guidance states that: "Secondary schools should offer pupils lateral flow testing ...on-site... from 8 March. **Testing and return of pupils can be phased** during the first week to manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time."

This means that the return to school will be staggered. In line with the guidance "priority will be given to examination year groups." Further details about the phased return to school will follow and I would like to reassure you that we are working hard to get all students back on site as quickly as is safely possible.

### **Information about Lateral Flow Tests**

You will be aware from our previous communication and the media that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms has begun across schools/colleges 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 are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. The tests are voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

### **Plan for testing**

The updated guidance states that students returning to school will be offered three on-site tests. The tests will have 3 - 5 days between them. Following these three on-site tests, students will be given home testing kits, and will be encouraged to complete two home tests per week.

I attach an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to participate in the on-site tests, please complete this form:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/130LIRPBX8wNWvEvRbMon9ol20hps5wsr/view?usp=sharing>

### **How the tests work**

Students will self-administer their tests, supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat.

If a student tests positive, school staff will speak with the student and contact parents/carers.

If a student tests negative their result is emailed/text to the students and if they are under 16 their parent/carer is also informed. This is all done through the NHS online system.

If a student's test is inconclusive, arrangements are made for a second test on the same day.

Whilst students are waiting for their test results they are able to attend lessons.

Both on site tests and home testing kits are free of charge.

### **What if my child tests positive?**

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

**What happens if the test is negative?**

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

**What if students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?**

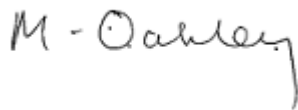
The student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

**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 (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 and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by email at [admin@shs.starmat.uk](mailto:admin@shs.starmat.uk)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M - Oakley'.

Miriam Oakley

Headteacher