

# COCKBURN SCHOOL

Specialist status in the Performing Arts



**Executive Headteacher** Mr D Gurney BA (Hons) / NPQH / NLE  
**Head of School** Mr R Dixon BSc (Hons) / NPQH

24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **RE: COVID TESTING AND PHASED RETURN TO SCHOOL FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021**

We are delighted to confirm that all students will return to school during the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March with testing in place for all students. The Government has allowed secondary schools to phase the return to school over the course of that week in order to support the initial testing programme. We will write to you again in due course with full details of when students in each year group will return.

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. The health, safety and wellbeing of all of our students and staff remains key to everything that we do.

### **COVID-19 'lateral flow tests'**

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in the school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. It is not compulsory to take these tests but the Government advises that effective testing will help to stop the virus spreading and make school as safe as possible. Therefore we **strongly advise** you to give consent for your child to be tested.

We have been testing staff and critical worker/vulnerable students in school now since the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and have a team of trained staff in place.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose/throat. Staff will oversee the swab process. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with students participating. Parents/carers will also be informed.

The government confirmed these tests work, in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

The government confirmed that students who have had consent provided will have three tests initially whilst in school on site and then will be provided with two home testing kits to use each week at home. The Department for Education will shortly provide us with the home testing kits and we will update parents/carers on how these can be collected/delivered in due course. The home test kits come with clear instructions for use and how to report the results. Home testing could take place on the morning before school or the night before, leaving enough time (30 minutes) for the result to display the outcome. After a home test, parents/carers will need to share their child's test result by forwarding on the email received from the NHS to school using this email address [covidtest@cockburnschool.org](mailto:covidtest@cockburnschool.org)

These tests are extremely easy to do. Please use the below link to watch a video on 'How to do a COVID-19 Self-Test' to get a better understanding of what this will entail for home testing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7IwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=1>

### **ONLINE CONSENT FORM – DEADLINE TO GIVE CONSENT – MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 12PM**

**If you have not done so already, please click the link in the email / parent app communication to give consent. This must be done for all individual students (parents/carers with more than child in school should complete the form for each child).**

### **What if a student tests positive in school?**

Students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Parents/carers will also be notified. If the student receives a positive result the student will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **What if a student tests positive at home?**

Participating students who test positive will know their results from 30 minutes of taking the test at home.

Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). You can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. During this time while you wait for the PCR result (via text/email) you will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

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

Students will be able to stay in the school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear from us you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason. This does not apply to the first test.

### **What if a close contact at the school tests positive?**

A close contact of someone in the school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at the school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

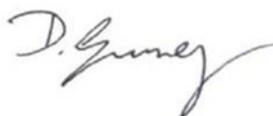
### **FACE COVERINGS**

The Government has recommended the use of face coverings indoors and that this will now include classrooms. We will update you on our expectations regarding this in due course and before your child's return to school. These expectations will be reviewed over the Easter holidays. Until then, they will apply to all students, staff and visitors (including parents/carers) except those that are exempt from wearing face coverings.

Please ensure that your child has a suitable number of face coverings ready for the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March. If you need any support with this then please contact the school.

We would like to thank you, once again, for your continued support and patience during this unprecedented time and look forward to welcoming your child back into our school building. Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions via 0113 2719962 or email [info@cockburnschool.org](mailto:info@cockburnschool.org)

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Gurney  
Executive Headteacher



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