

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

4th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: STUDENT COVID TESTING

Following on from the letter sent regarding return to school from March 9th, this letter gives detail of when students will be expected in school for their first COVID-19 test. 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. Therefore, we **strongly advise** you to give consent for your child to be tested.

March Start Dates for Year Groups

In order to carry out the COVID-19 testing we are operating a phased return to school. Please note that after your child has had their first test, they will go home. They will not be required to wear school uniform for this first test but must wear a face covering unless they are exempt. The key dates that each year group is required to attend are as follows:

Friday 5th March: COVID-19 testing for Years 7 & 8 (Online live lessons for Years 9, 10 & 11)

Monday 8th March: COVID-19 testing for Years 9, 10 & 11 - Professional Development Day (No remote learning or online live lessons)

Tuesday 9th March: Full return to school for ALL students at their staggered times per year group. Please note some changes to start and end times for some year groups.

Schedule for testing

Please note that students who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days from their final day of self-isolation should not be tested using lateral flow tests. They should return to school on Tuesday 9th March.

Friday 5th March – Year 7

Frog Remote Learning work (rather than live lessons) will be set for students to complete when at home

8.15-9.35	9.50-10.45	10.45-11.30	12.00-1.05	1.05-1.55
Surname A-B	Surname C-G	Surname H-K	Surname L-R	Surname S-Z

Friday 5th March – Year 8

Frog Remote Learning work (rather than live lessons) will be set for students to complete when at home

8.15-9.35	9.50-10.45	10.45-11.30	12.00-1.05	1.05-1.55
Surname A-C	Surname D-J	Surname K-N	Surname O-S	Surname T-Z

Monday 8th March – Year 9

8.25-9.40	9.40-10.05	10.20-10.45	10.45-11.35		
Surname A-E	Surname F-K	Surname L-P	Surname Q-Z		

Monday 8th March – Year 10

8.30-9.40	9.40-10.35	10.50-11.35	11.35-12.40	1.10-1.55
Surname A-C	Surname D-J	Surname K-N	Surname O-S	Surname T-Z

Monday 8th March – Year 11

		11.35-12.40	1.10-1.55	1.55-3.00
		Surname A-G	Surname H-M	Surname N-Z

When students arrive at school they will be asked to sanitise their hands before entering the building via their usual entrances. They will then be sent straight to the testing rooms. Members of staff will be on hand to support students at all times. In the testing room, they will form a socially distanced queue before taking their test.

COVID-19 'lateral flow tests'

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose/throat. Staff will oversee the swab process.

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. We will update parents/carers on how these will be distributed to students 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 test to display the outcome.

After a home test, parents/carers will need to share their child's test result with school by clicking an online form link that we will provide with the kits. This will ask you to submit your child's details and the result of the test.

If you have any specific questions regarding home testing please email covidtest@cockburnschool.org

These tests are 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=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=1>

How are results given?

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. 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 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 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>.

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.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Gurney
Executive Headteacher



Mr R Dixon
Head of School

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