



Tomlinscote School

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Return to school and schedule for asymptomatic testing

I am really pleased that the government has announced that students can return to school from 8th March 2021. We have been thinking carefully about how to manage this return in a safe manner, that allows for 4500 tests to be taken and at the same time, enables normal lessons and student movement around the site to take place. This is quite a logistical task!

Consequently, the Tomlinscote plan is for all students to be tested once next week; it is easier to do testing while the site is quieter. Students will need to come to the Gym during their allocated time. Students will then return to school for normal lessons from Monday 8th March *in a phased way* over the following days. This will allow us to complete the huge number of tests required and slowly increase the number of students on site each day.

Testing schedule for next week

How many tests will the students receive in school?

Students will be offered three Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests spaced three to five days apart (minimum three days). This is to ensure that students will have undertaken some testing in a supervised setting and have had the chance to familiarise themselves with self-swabbing.

Wednesday 3rd March	YEAR 11	9am - 12 noon
Thursday 4th March	YEAR 10	9am - 12 noon
Thursday 4th March	YEAR 8	12 noon - 3pm
Friday 5th March	YEAR 7	9am - 12 noon
Friday 5th March	YEAR 9	12 noon - 3pm

A more detailed timetable about when each form group is allocated to come to the Gym/Sports Hall is at the end of this letter and a reminder will be emailed directly to each parent and student before their allocated day.

Parents are welcome to bring their child down to the school car park and can remain in the car during the brief time that the test is completed. After the test, parents will need to register the test with NHS Track & Trace. We will provide the student with all the relevant details as they leave the school test centre. As soon as this registration has been completed, a result will be sent to parents within 30 minutes through text and/or email.

Return to school from 8th March 2021 and testing schedule for the 2nd and 3rd tests

Monday 8th March	YEAR 11	Arrive for form time starting at 8.30am and Year 11 will be in school all day. Year 11 will be tested a 2 nd time during the morning.
	YEAR 10	Remote learning during the morning. Year 10 will then come down to the school for their 2 nd test from 12 noon – 3pm.
	YEARS 7, 8 & 9	Remote learning from home all day.
Tuesday 9th March	YEARS 11 & 10	Both Year groups will in school all day. 8.30am – Year 11 8.40am – Year 10
	YEAR 7	Year 7 will come down to school in the morning for their 2 nd test (9am – 12) and then return home for remote learning.
	YEAR 8	Year 8 will do remote learning for the morning and then come down to school for testing between 12 – 3pm.
	YEAR 9	Remote learning from home all day.
Wednesday 10th March	YEARS 7, 8, 10 & 11	These year groups will be in school all day. 8.30am – Year 11 8.40am – Year 10 8.30am – Year 8 8.30am – Year 7
	YEAR 9	Year 9 will be tested in the morning between 9am – 12. They will then go home for remote learning for the rest of the day.
Thursday 11th March	ALL YEARS	All year groups will be in school all day. 8.30am – Year 11 8.40am – Year 10 8.40am – Year 9 8.30am – Year 8 8.30am – Year 7 The 3 rd test will be started for Year 11 and Year 10 throughout the day.
Friday 12th March	All YEARS	All year groups will be in school all day. The 3 rd test will be started for Year 7 and Year 8.
Monday 15th March	ALL YEARS	All year groups will be in school all day. The 3 rd test will be started for Year 9.

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students and face masks

The government has said that all students should wear *face masks* within the classroom. Currently, our students already wear face masks inside buildings and corridors. From 8th March 2021, ALL students and staff will be required to wear face masks within the classroom. This is new and will continue until the Easter holidays, when it will be reviewed by the government.

The lateral flow tests are one measure that we are introducing to work alongside many other protective measures that already exist within the school to keep everyone as safe as possible. Please have a look at the questions & answers below regarding tests.

Why do asymptomatic testing?

The government feel that this is another crucial tool to help mitigate the transmission of Covid-19. The tests will identify and help to prevent staff and students without symptoms from transmitting and spreading the virus unknowingly.

What are the tests?

The tests are known as lateral flow device (LFD) tests. We have carried out 1200 tests in school already since January 2021 and have a testing centre set up in our Gym and Sports Hall.

Who should be tested?

All students in Years 7 through to Year 11 and all staff at school. The majority of our parents have completed the consent form during the Christmas holiday period and do not need to do it again. We have sent it out again to those parents who have not completed it – we need to know whether you wish your child to have tests or not. The tests are *voluntary* and if you decide that your child will not have a test then they will return to school as normal. However, we would like to encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

How are the tests carried out?

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with parents of the child and staff (as appropriate). All students will swab themselves if they are able to with adult supervision.

What happens if your child already has Covid-19 symptoms

This asymptomatic testing programme does not replace current guidance for those with symptoms or those identified as a close contact of a positive case. Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in this programme or not, should book a free NHS test and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known.

What happens if the lateral flow test is positive?

All individuals should isolate if they receive a positive result.

What happens if your child has already had a positive Covid-19 test result?

NHS Test and Trace have confirmed that retesting in education settings with either LFD or PCR within 90 days of a positive test PCR test is not recommended unless the person is symptomatic, in which case they should book a PCR test.

What testing will take place after the 3 in-school tests – testing at home?

Following the three initial tests, students can collect their 'test at home' kits and start testing at home for regular twice weekly tests. We will distribute those tests to students at school and they will take them home each week. More details and advice about how this works will be provided soon.

At the end of this letter is an instructional leaflet with some more information about how testing works. Further, you may be interested to watch this video on YouTube which explains in a little more detail how the test is administered – it is very simple and nothing to be worried about:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuA2YVA6_6c&feature=youtu.be

How can I help with the testing programme?

We are fortunate to have a number of our school staff trained to lead the testing and that is one reason why I wish to get a test out of the way before the 8th March 2021. Furthermore, we will be contacting directly some of the parent volunteers who initially told us they were willing to help. We had many requests to help which is superb, and we will be in touch soon to see if you can help out with the actual testing.

I hope that this letter is clear, and I will email students a copy of the testing schedule as well. Please have a conversation with your child(ren) about this information because we need students to be prompt to their allocated test times and know what is going on. Thank you for your support with this.

Yours sincerely

Mr Major
Principal

SCHEDULE FOR TESTING AT TOMLINSCOTE SCHOOL

Date and testing session	Form	Time of 1st test – please be at the Gym at this time
Wednesday 3rd March	11R	9.00AM
	11H	9.15AM
	11Q	9.45AM
	11G	10.00AM
	11P	10.30AM
	11K	10.45AM
	11X	11.15AM
	11Y	11.30AM
	11M	11.45AM
Thursday 4th March	10R	9.00AM
	10H	9.15AM
	10Q	9.30AM
	10G	9.45AM
	10P	10.00AM
	10K	10.30AM
	10X	10.45AM
	10Y	11.15AM
	10M	11.30AM
	10L	11.45AM
Thursday 4th March	8R	12.15PM
	8H	12.30PM
	8Q	12.45PM
	8G	1.00PM
	8P	1.30PM
	8K	1.45PM
	8X	2.00PM
	8Y	2.15PM
	8M	2.30PM
	8L	2.45PM
Friday 5th March	7R	9.00AM
	7H	9.15AM
	7Q	9.30AM
	7G	9.45AM
	7P	10.00AM
	7K	10.30AM
	7X	10.45AM
	7Y	11.15AM
	7M	11.30AM
	7L	11.45AM
Friday 5th March	9R	12.15PM
	9H	12.30PM
	9Q	12.45PM
	9G	1.00PM
	9P	1.30PM
	9K	1.45PM
	9X	2.00PM
	9Y	2.15PM
	9M	2.30PM
	9L	2.45PM

Date and testing session	Form	Time of 2 nd test – please be at the Gym at this time
Monday 8 th March	Year 11	Year 11 will be tested in school during lessons – the time will be confirmed in their tutor time in the morning.
Monday 8 th March	10R	12.15PM
	10H	12.30PM
	10Q	12.45PM
	10G	1.00PM
	10P	1.30PM
	10K	1.45PM
	10X	2.00PM
	10Y	2.15PM
	10M	2.30PM
	10L	2.45PM
Tuesday 9 th March	7R	9.00AM
	7H	9.15AM
	7Q	9.30AM
	7G	9.45AM
	7P	10.00AM
	7K	10.30AM
	7X	10.45AM
	7Y	11.15AM
	7M	11.30AM
	7L	11.45AM
Tuesday 9 th March	8R	12.15PM
	8H	12.30PM
	8Q	12.45PM
	8G	1.00PM
	8P	1.30PM
	8K	1.45PM
	8X	2.00PM
	8Y	2.15PM
	8M	2.30PM
	8L	2.45PM
Wednesday 10 th March	9R	9.00AM
	9H	9.15AM
	9Q	9.30AM
	9G	9.45AM
	9P	10.00AM
	9K	10.30AM
	9X	10.45AM
	9Y	11.15AM
	9M	11.30AM
	9L	11.45AM
Date and testing session	Year(s)	Time of 3 rd test
Thursday 11 th March	10 & 11	Students will be tested in school during lessons – the time will be confirmed in their tutor time in the morning.
Friday 12 th March	7 & 8	
Monday 15 th March	9	

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1

YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED, IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED



2

YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU



3

BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART



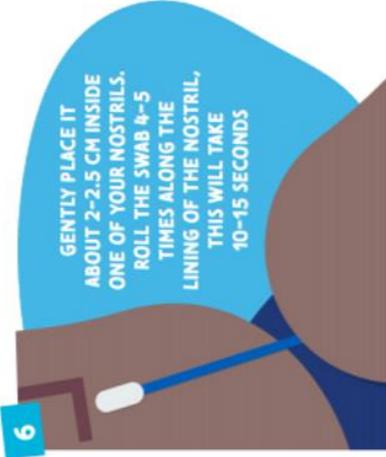
4



OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

5

REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS



GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7

AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP



9

YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT



8

YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

