



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the government announcement yesterday and the initial guidance from the Department for Education we have started the planning to welcome all students back in to school. **From Monday 8th March we will begin the programme required to offer all 1500 students 3 rapid lateral flow tests, 3 to 5 days apart.** The government has committed to doing this to support a safe return to school and also to ensure that all students are familiar with the process required to then conduct tests at home under the supervision of parents. There will be more details to follow about the testing process in the coming week. Conducting up to 4500 individual student tests is a huge undertaking and will require an intensive programme supported by at least 25 members of staff on each testing day.

[Mass testing for secondary pupils as all schools and colleges fully reopen from 8 March - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

By Friday 26th February we will confirm with parents the actual return date for each year group to lessons, this will be phased in between Wednesday 10th and Monday 15th March. Current provision for the children of key workers will continue until each year group's full return to school. The return is being staggered to support the testing process and transition back in to school but it is anticipated that all students will be back in school full-time by Monday 15th March.

For students in Years 7-11, we require parents/guardians to complete a consent form for **each** child to enable them to receive a test. This is the same consent form that was sent out on Monday 4th January. If you completed the form then, there is no need to resubmit it. If you are unsure as to whether you completed the form we would recommend that you complete it by clicking on the link below as we are unable to test students without consent.

If you do not wish your child to receive a test please email office@keslichfield.org.uk

[Use this link to give consent for testing](#)

Remote learning will continue for all year groups until their date for a full return to school. However, for the week beginning 8th March we will not be conducting live lessons on Teams. We will need the flexibility to call on staff to support practical arrangements in school and departmental work on transition planning. Work will be set on Show My Homework as normal. This will also give students the flexibility needed to attend school for testing when required.

Most arrangements in school will be similar to routines established in the autumn term. However, the recent guidance also now requires students to wear masks in classrooms where social distancing is not possible. Our students have been very supportive of the requirement to wear masks when moving around school, this will now apply in all classroom settings until at least Easter. There will also be some slight changes to one-way systems and rooming due to completion of some of the building work. This will be explained to students as part of the transition process on their return. We will also send you further details about the return to school by Friday 5th March.

The school is following the guidance issued by the Department for Education [Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance)

We know that our students have had a range of experiences during lockdown. Through communication with teachers, tutors and other key staff in school we have a good understanding of life in lockdown for many of our students. When students return to school we understand that some students may have thrived while some may have struggled; the most important thing for us all is to take positive steps forward. It is a journey rather than a race to re-engage with life in school. We expect to hear more on Thursday this week about the arrangements for grading linked to Year 11 and Year 13 courses this year. We will share this information with students and parents at the earliest opportunity.

We very much look forward to having our students back in school and I would like to thank all of our staff, students and families for their support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Rutherford
Headteacher