



26 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are continuing to work to keep our school as safe as possible. As communicated earlier this week, in preparation for opening to all students next month we are providing students with the opportunity to receive lateral flow testing. Along with other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help to identify asymptomatic cases of Covid-19. The test is **voluntary**, but we encourage students to take it. In all cases, where someone has any of the main symptoms of Covid-19 they should isolate in accordance with guidance and book a PCR test. Lateral flow tests in school are only for those without symptoms.

Administering lateral flow tests

All lateral flow testing to be carried out in school is self-administered. This is done via a swab to the back of the throat and the nose. Even where consent is given by a parent, the child must be willing and able to carry out the swabbing under adult supervision. Trained school staff and volunteers will be on hand to support students throughout this process. We have been conducting lateral flow tests for several weeks for students and staff currently attending school. An instructional leaflet is available here - [How to do your test: COVID 19 instruction leaflet for schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Please note that if a child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days, they will be exempt from testing. Please email jbrownridge@keslichfield.org.uk if your child has tested positive in this time frame and you do not wish them to receive a lateral flow test. If you chose to continue with the lateral flow testing and a positive result is recorded, the student and household members would need to isolate in accordance with the guidance.

Consent for testing

For students in Years **7-11**, consent must be obtained through parents and carers. This needs to be completed by **Monday 1st March** so that we can plan for the demand for lateral flow testing and prepare registration cards. Please note that we are unable to process lateral flow tests without this consent. Thank you for all the responses we have received so far. If you have not yet given consent, please do so via the following link. [Consent form](#)

How many tests will students receive in school?

Students will have the opportunity to receive 3 lateral flow tests in school. As a minimum, the first test will be completed before students return to face-to-face education.

When will my child receive the lateral flow tests?

We anticipate offering three lateral flow tests to all students by the 19th March. Following this, the government has pledged to provide home testing kits that students can carry out at home under the supervision of parents and carers. The testing days for each Year group is shown in the table below – **appointment time slots for the first test will be sent early next week**. Where students are coming into school to receive a lateral flow test and then returning home, they will not need to come into school in their uniform.

Year group	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3
7	Tuesday 9 th March (am)	Friday 12 th March	Wednesday 17 th March
8	Wednesday 10 th March (am)	Monday 15 th March	Thursday 18 th March
9	Tuesday 9 th March (pm)	Friday 12 th March	Wednesday 17 th March
10	Wednesday 10 th March (pm)	Monday 15 th March	Thursday 18 th March
11	Monday 8 th March (am)	Thursday 11 th March	Tuesday 16 th March
12	Monday 8 th March (pm)	Thursday 11 th March	Tuesday 16 th March
13	Monday 8 th March (pm)	Thursday 11 th March	Tuesday 16 th March

What if a student tests positive?

If a student tests positive using a lateral flow test, parents and carers will also be contacted directly by a member of school staff in addition to the notification received via Track and Trace. If a student receives a positive result they will need to self-isolate in accordance with guidance (along with household members). We will also communicate directly with identified close contacts of a positive case who will also need to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

When will students return to face-to-face lessons?

Over a 2-week period we will need to offer 4,500 lateral flow tests. To do this safely and efficiently we will be staggering the return of students. Please see the table below for the return dates for each Year group. For students who are currently accessing our critical worker and vulnerable student provision, this will continue to be available until the Year group return date.

Year group	School return date
7	Thursday 11 th March
8	Monday 15 th March
9	Monday 15 th March
10	Friday 12 th March

Year group	School return date
11	Wednesday 10 th March
12	Friday 12 th March
13	Wednesday 10 th March

The testing process

Parents and Carers will be contacted early next week with the first test appointment slot. The appointments will be staggered to enable students to follow social distancing.

For Years 7-11, students will be registered via the testing team. Results of tests will be entered into the NHS track and Trace system and parents/carers will be notified of the result of the test **via a text message** sent to the phone number given in the consent.

Sixth form students will be able to register and provide their own consent having discussed participation with parents or carers and will directly receive the result. If they have a smart phone this should be brought along to the testing site. If they do not have a smart phone a member of our testing team will support the registration process.

Whilst lateral flow tests are not as accurate in identifying positive Covid-19 cases as PCR tests, providing this opportunity will help to identify asymptomatic cases and we hope that students/parents and carers take this opportunity where possible.

We have produced a short video to show students what to expect when they come for their first lateral flow test and would be grateful if you could share this with them. Testing will take place in the sports hall in the sports centre.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1EKQJ-PwyQc&feature=youtu.be>

We are extremely grateful that members of our school and wider community have volunteered to support our testing programme which forms an important part of enabling our students to return to school safely. This is significant logistical challenge, and we thank you for your support and patience whilst we complete it.

Further communication will be sent next week with details about students' return to school. We look forward to seeing them face to face soon.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Hurn
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs C Forster
Deputy Headteacher