



The Talentum Learning Trust

Westwood
College

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Our Ref: TYL/jc

26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Return to school from 8th March

I hope that you and your families are well.

Lateral Flow Tests

In line with the guidance issued by the Government in the last week, we are planning to commence Lateral Flow Testing for students from Monday 8th March. By now, you should have received a letter and consent form, giving you the option to consent to your son/daughter completing a test in school. Please return these forms as soon as possible. The easiest way to do this is to use the online form by clicking the following link:

<http://bit.ly/WWCFlowTests>

In order to allow us to test students safely and to manage their return to the classroom, we will be staggering tests and return dates over the weeks beginning the 8th and 15th March. Due to the high number of tests that we need to carry out and to ensure that large groups of students are not mixing, students will need to arrive at school at a given time for their first test and will return home immediately afterwards. Students will begin to return to face-to-face teaching from Wednesday 10th March, beginning with the Sixth Form. The table below summarises this:

Register	Testing slot	Mon 8th	Tue 9th	Wed 10th	Thur 11th	Fri 12th	Mon 15th
8.45am	9.00am	11W1 and 11W2	WS1 and WS2	9W1 and 9W2	11W1 and 11W2	10W1 and 10W2	9W1 and 9W2
9.45am	10.00am	11W3 and 11W4	WS3 and WS4	9W3 and 9W4	11W3 and 11W4	10W3 and 10W4	9W3 and 9W4
10.45am	11.00am	11W5 and 11W6	WS5	9W5 and 9W6	11W5 and 11W6	10W5 and 10W6	9W5 and 9W6
11.45am	12.00pm	11W7 and 11W8	10W1 and 10W2	9W7 and 9W8	11W7 and 11W8	10W7 and 10W8	9W7 and 9W8
12.45pm	1.00pm	WS6 and WS7	10W3 and 10W4	-	WS6 and WS7	WS1 and WS2	-
1.45pm	2.00pm	WS8 and WS9	10W5 and 10W6	-	WS8 and WS9	WS3 and WS4	-
2.45pm	3.00pm	WS10 and WS11	10W7 and 10W8	-	WS10 and WS11	WS5	-



- Sixth Form students return to face-to-face teaching from Wednesday 10th March
- Year 11 students attend as scheduled for their second test on the 11th March and stay in school for face-to-face teaching from that point
- Year 10 students attend as scheduled for their second test on the 12th March and stay in school for face-to-face teaching from that point
- Year 9 students attend as scheduled for their second test on the 15th March and stay in school for face-to-face teaching from that point

Students will be tested in their form groups. This will help us to keep the number of students who may have to isolate as a result of a positive case to a minimum. Students will need to arrive promptly at the time indicated for them to register for their test. They will be guided through the registration process and will then be taken down to the testing room. The test itself will take approximately 5 minutes and a result is usually provided after 30 minutes.

We recognise that arriving at a specific time and leaving afterwards (in the case of the first test) may present challenges for students who travel a greater distance to school. Unfortunately, this is the only way we can complete the tests in a safe and secure way.

Testing in school will allow us to help students understand how to safely and accurately test themselves. From 15th March, students will be issued with home testing kits which they will use to test themselves twice weekly. Information on how to use the kits and how to record results is included in each pack.

In the event of a positive test, we will ensure that the student and their parents are informed, before considering which other students may need to isolate. It is recommended that in the event of a positive Lateral Flow Test, a PCR test is completed at a public test centre in order to confirm the result as soon as possible.

Remote learning will continue for students up until the point they return to face-to-face teaching. There may be some disruption to this with staff being involved in supervising Lateral Flow Tests, though we will do our best to keep this to a minimum.

PPE and other measures

Many of the measures that students are familiar with from before Christmas will be in place on their return. We will continue to operate in year group bubbles, seeking to minimise any contact between students from other bubbles around the site. Year group bubbles will continue to have their own designated social areas (indoor and outdoor) and their own toilets. We will continue to rota the use of the Canteen to ensure there is no overlap, cleaning down between sittings. The one-way system, both within buildings and around the site, will continue to operate.

The use of hand sanitiser and the importance of washing hands will remain key to our approach. Hand sanitiser will continue to be available throughout the site, though we do encourage students to bring their own where possible. Students will also be encouraged to assist with the wiping down of desks at the beginning and end of lessons.

One significant change comes in the use of face masks. Students and staff will now be required to wear a mask at all times when indoors, including when in classrooms. It is essential that students bring their own masks to school; though we have some available should a mask be lost or broken, we do not have enough to regularly issue them to students. Students may wish to bring two masks with them to avoid this situation, and to enable them to change a mask should they wish to know that they will be wearing them for a greater amount of time.

Most important of all is that students do not attend if they feel at all unwell. This is especially important if they have:

- **a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)**
- **a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)**
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal**

Symptoms other than these should also be treated with caution. The best advice is to stay off school and book a test should you be at all unsure.

We were impressed by the conduct of students last term in adapting to these measures. Our expectations for their behaviour and conduct remain exactly the same. Any failure to follow these guidelines will be treated extremely seriously.

Year 13 Trial Examinations

Students in Year 13 will be aware we had planned to complete trial examinations in the week beginning 8th March. As this week will now be used primarily for testing, we will postpone the trial examinations until the week beginning 22nd March. The timetable will remain largely the same, although we will confirm this with you in advance.

Grades Summer 2021

You are likely to be aware that on Wednesday, the Education Secretary Gavin Williamson announced the plans for grading students in examination year groups this summer (students in Years 11 and 13). Once this information is published in full, we will communicate our plans and expectations to students and parents. Our aim will be to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by the time they have spent away from school.

We are excited about being able to welcome students back and are looking forward to seeing them face-to-face again. We realise that this return will cause some students to be anxious, especially with the introduction of tests. We will be doing our best to reassure students and to ease any nerves. Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Taylor
Headteacher