

26 February 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well and that you enjoyed a good half term break.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement earlier this week, we are really delighted that we will be able to begin returning our students back into school from **Monday 8th March**. To avoid making this an exceptionally long letter, this forms part of a series of letters that we will be sending to provide you with detailed information about our return. Additional details that are specific to each year group will be shared with families on Tuesday 2nd March. These will include information about Lateral Flow Testing procedures and the Lateral Flow Consent request, as well as a reminder of the protocols that we have in place for mitigating the transmission of Covid-19.

Lateral Flow Testing

As part of the plans outlined by the Government, schools are expected to offer three Lateral Flow Tests to all students on site; the guidance indicates that students should be tested once, before resuming face-to-face teaching, then tested twice more with three to five days between each test. Given the size of our school, I am sure you can imagine the logistical enormity of this endeavour and, therefore, the planning attached to this – it is certainly keeping us on our toes! Following those first three tests, students will be issued with home-testing kits by the school and they will need to continue to test, at home, until the government advises that this is no longer necessary.

NSG needs you!

Whilst we cannot wait to see our students again, we must ensure that we bring everyone back to school safely and have therefore put in place an ambitious plan for return, scheduling testing to begin from Monday 8th March. We are blessed with an incredible team from our current support staff who have been fully trained and operating our test centre for staff and key worker children since January. However, to deliver our ambitious programme we are now seeking volunteers to help us and will shortly be sending out a separate letter with details of how you might be able to support us: we really hope that you would be willing to.

Whilst students are under no obligation to take the test, I have a duty to emphasise that the government is strongly recommending this as part of their system of control measures and that this is an important part of supporting us to keep our school community safe.

You will recognise that testing this number of students is a significant undertaking and, therefore, we will need to stagger the dates of return for year groups, and will also need to stagger arrival times on each day in the first three days. This is the safest way to manage the administration of the tests on each day: we are grateful for your understanding and support with this. Specific information relating to each year group will be shared with you on Tuesday 2nd March.



Specific dates for return

The following are the dates that each year group will be returning to school. Please make a careful note of these. This information will be shared again with each year group next week.

Date	Year Groups
Monday 8 th March	Year 10 and Year 12
Tuesday 9 th March	Year 8 and Year 9
Wednesday 10 th March	Year 7

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will continue with their remote assessments as planned and will be invited into school at times when they do not have assessments. The dates of this have already been shared and will be circulated again next week. Our school transport will resume operation from Monday 8th March also.

Once students have taken their first lateral flow test, they can remain on site for face to face teaching, providing the result is negative. Full details of this will be provided with the Lateral Flow Test guidance that will be shared with you next week.

All of the Lateral Flow Tests will be administered in the Sports Hall, as this is our largest indoor area, and this will operate with our usual 2 metre social distancing protocols. Students will be required to wear a mask on site at all times, including in classrooms if a 2 metre social distance cannot be maintained, and to fully observe the social distancing guidelines as we are still in a National Lockdown situation.

If your child has recently received a letter informing them that they are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, and therefore shielding, or if there has been a change in their medical circumstances, please do make sure that you inform us by emailing Mrs Boddy at aboddy@nsg.northants.sch.uk as soon as possible. This will allow us to make the necessary arrangements to ensure your child receives our full support.

Thank you very much for your continued support and kindness.

With very best wishes,



Cristina Taboada-Naya | Headteacher
Northampton School for Girls

