

3rd March 2021

Dear Carers/Parents

Return to School

On the 22nd February the government announced that all children should return to school from the 8th March and that for pupils attending Special Schools or Alternative Provisions should be offered a "one off" asymptomatic covid test before commencing home testing (which will be arranged through school). **The "one off" test only applies to those pupils not already accessing education during lockdown on school site.**

Testing is voluntary but if you wish your child to be tested we are able to offer asymptomatic testing at one of three sites across York at the locations at the bottom of this letter.

You must book an appointment before arriving at the test centre. This can be done using the link [Symptom-free coronavirus testing – City of York Council](#) from Sunday 28th February for first appointment week commencing 1st March. As well as your child getting tested, we would encourage all family members who are aged 11 years and over to book a test.

Asymptomatic testing will support the risk reduction measures which are already in place in school and in our community and everyone should continue to adhere to 'hands, face, space' to protect themselves, our friends and family.

If you wish to carry out home testing of your child (twice per week) please complete consent forms on this [link](#) and read the privacy notice on this [link](#) by **Thursday 11th March 2021**.

Here is a useful video [link](#) to illustrate the testing process, if you are unsure. More information will follow over the next week for those of you who have given consent to carry out asymptomatic testing at home, with specific detail of how to conduct the tests along with other details.

Testing locations in York:

York Saint Johns University
York St John University Foss Sports Hall
Clarence Street
York
YO31 7PJ

York Stadium Leisure Complex
Kathryn Avenue
Monks Cross Drive
York

University of York
James Way
Heslington
York
YO10 5NA

Face Coverings

You may have seen in the press and read about the guidance regarding secondary aged pupils wearing face masks.

Due to the specific and individual needs of the young people attending our provision, the guidance published this week does have specific exemptions for children with SEND who cannot tolerate face coverings. Many of our young people will find face mask wearing potentially dysregulating and upsetting, which could then lead to further challenges as they return to school. **Where pupils are able to tolerate the wearing of face masks, we would encourage them to do so and will provide face coverings at school.**

During the last few months our staff teams have worn visors or face coverings when working with the young people and in a very high percentage of cases they have been viewed by the pupils positively. We therefore aim to carry on with this particularly in communal areas and areas where adequate social distancing cannot be maintained. Alongside our Risk Assessments (an up-to-date version of which is on our website [link](#)) and heightened sanitation and hygiene processes we believe that we will be able to continue to manage all situations safely – as we have done since March 2020.

Free School Meals

To confirm, as of 8th March we will no longer be providing FSM vouchers to families as there is a full return to school. We await further information regarding FSM vouchers over the Easter Holidays, and will communicate this once we have the detail.

Staggered Return w/c 8th March

We will be running a staggered start during the week commencing 8th March to enable a safe return to school for those pupils who have not attended site throughout lockdown. All pupils who have attended site throughout the recent lockdown should plan to return on Monday 8th March to their pre-lockdown timetable. Key Workers will contact all carers/parents to confirm all individual plans.

Date	Group Returning
Monday 8 th March	Primary, Primary Kestrels
Tuesday 9 th March	KS3 Steps, KS3 Talkabout, Kestrel 3, Home to School groups.
Wednesday 10 th March	KS4 Steps, KS4 Talkabout, Nurture KS4
Thursday 11 th March	Bridge KS4, Bridge KS3, Y11R Keystone

Once again, thank you for your support and forbearance in these difficult times.

Sincerely,



Mark Richardson, Head Teacher