

March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Re: Testing and Return to School**

You will be aware by now that we are moving towards a return to school for all our students in the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March. We are now in a position to inform you of the logistics of how this is going to take place.

The government is advising all secondary students and staff to be tested for Covid 19, before returning to the classroom. Although this testing is not compulsory, or a return to school conditional on having a test, we strongly advise all students to comply. Having a test will help to identify those who are asymptomatic and therefore pose a risk to others of them passing on the infection. The more students who have these tests, the safer the school will be for everyone. Any student who has a positive test, will be required to self-isolate for 10 days before returning to school and any close contacts in school will also be traced and told to self-isolate.

Before any test can take place parents of main school students will need to complete a consent form. This form is available on Frog under Covid Testing. We are unable to test any students who do not have a completed consent form. We strongly advise you to complete this form as soon as possible and no later than Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Students will have three tests in school, before moving towards home testing twice a week. Details of this will be given to students nearer the time. The priority at the moment is to get all students tested once and back into the classroom as soon as possible. Remote learning and Key Worker/Vulnerable student provision will continue as before, until students return to school along with their year group, on the day allocated to them.

As we are a very large school, it will take time to work our way through the testing of all of our 1,943 students. We therefore ask parents and students to be patient with us. We are prioritising the students who are due to be awarded grades this summer (Year 11 & Year 13) but are getting all students back as soon as possible.

Testing will begin on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March for all Year 11 students. Year 13 will be tested on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.** Both Year 11 and Year 13, will then be able to come back into school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. All students will return on a **normal week one timetable**. All students in main school must be in full uniform and bring their planner and appropriate equipment for their lessons, on their return to school.

**Main School students should wear full uniform for their Covid test and Sixth Form students should wear their ID badges.** We will encourage students to wear a face covering in the building. Testing will take place in the gym. For their first test, students will access the building via the Sport@Gosforth entrance. The sports café will become a holding area, where students will receive their registration cards. Staff will be there to guide them through every step of the process. Students will need to remain socially distanced at this time. When their test is completed they will leave by a separate exit from the gym and need to go straight home to continue their remote education. It is important they do not loiter outside the school to meet up with their friends as this could be counter-productive to school's safe return. Test results will be sent via email or text to the student and are usually available within one hour of the test being done.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Year 11 students will enter the building via the fire exit near art, at the front of the building. Year 11 will have registration at 8.30am in the Year 11 zone and lessons will begin period 1.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Year 13 will enter using their normal entrance via Sport@Gosforth at 8.55am or when they have their first timetabled lesson and have their ID badge with them. Year 10 will also be using this entrance to access their test so Year 13 will need to keep to the path allocated to them. Year 13 will go straight to period 1.

The next group to be tested will be Year 10 and this will take place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Students will come to school wearing uniform for their test and then return home to continue remote learning until Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, when they will be able to enter school via student entrance and go straight to registration in the Year 10 zone. Normal lessons begin period 1.

Year 12 will be tested on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, returning to school on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 8.55am or for their first lesson of the day. Year 12 students should be wearing their ID badges in school. Year 12 will enter through the Sport@Gosforth entrance as usual, keeping to the route marked out for them. Year 9 will be tested on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March and return to school on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

It is really important that we get a good start to what remains of this term and quickly get back into good routines. Students will have missed their friends and the social contact which is so important to us all, but we also need to help and support them to catch up. We would like to thank parents for all their support during this difficult time and ask for this to continue during this important period of transition.

Our students know what is expected of them in school and we anticipate they will settle quickly. However, if your son or daughter is continuing to struggle please inform the pastoral team who would be happy to help you.

There are certain changes/key points you need to be aware of:

- The wearing of face coverings is now strongly recommended (unless you have a medical exemption), at all times in school where a 2 metre distance cannot be maintained. This will apply not only in corridors and social areas but also in classrooms.
- Students will be tested for Covid 19 on three separate occasions if they have consented.
- Good hygiene and hand sanitising must be maintained.
- Students need to try and keep to the social distance rules.
- Students must remain in the zone bubble for their year group unless moving to a practical room for a lesson
- Full school uniform must be worn during the testing process
- Students will enter and leave the building on their return via their 'normal Covid entrance'
- Students need to remain within their year group zone on their return to school
- We will continue to have staggered start and finish times for each year group.

We also recommend familiarizing yourself with the parent/student/sixth form Covid handbooks we shared in September which can be found on the school website.

We appreciate this is a lot of information for everyone to take on board and we thank you for your patience. Parents and school need to work together to get our children/students back into school where they belong.

**Please see attached sheet for details of the specific time your child needs to attend school for their 1st Covid test.**

Yours faithfully

C L Milburn

Acting Director of Main School

Karen Blackburn

Director Sixth Form

Please attend the Sport@Gosforth Café for your First Covid Test at the following times and avoid early arrival:

Year 11 - Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March				
11A	9.00am		11N	11.15am
11B	9.15am		11P	11.30am
11C	9.30am		11Q	11.45am
11D	10.00am		11R	12.00 noon
11E	10.15am		11S	12.30pm
11F	10.30am		11T	12.45pm
11G	11.00am		11U	2.10am
			11V	2.25pm

Year 13 - Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March				
Students will attend according to which personal tutor they have, as outlined below				
<b>GMH</b> Surname A - K	9.00am		<b>MAS</b> Surname L - Z	12.05pm
<b>GMH</b> Surname L - Z	9.20am		<b>RCR</b> Surname A - K	12.30pm
<b>IJL</b> Surname A - K	9.45am		<b>RCR</b> Surname L - Z	12.50pm
<b>IJL</b> Surname L - Z	10.05am		<b>SXR</b> Surname A - K	2.15pm
<b>LHH</b> Surname A - K	11.00am		<b>SXR</b> Surname L - Z	2.30pm
<b>LHH</b> Surname L - Z	11.20am			
<b>MAS</b> Surname A - K	11.45am			

Year 10 – Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March				
10A	9.00am		10M	11.15am
10B	9.15am		10N	11.30am
10C	9.30am		10P	12.00 noon
10D	10.00am		10Q	12.30pm
10E	10.15am		10R	12.45pm
10F	10.30am		10S	1.50pm
10G	11.00am		10T	2.05pm
			10U	2.25pm

<b>Year 12 – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Students will attend according to which personal tutor they have, as outlined below</b>				
GMH Surname A - K	9.00am		RCR Surname L - Z	11.45am
GMH Surname L - Z	9.15am		SXR Surname A - K	12.00noon
IJL Surname A - K	9.30am		SXR Surname L - Z	12.15pm
IJL Surname L - Z	9.45am		JKL Surname A - G	12.30pm
LHH Surname A - Z	10.00am		JKL Surname H - Q	12.45pm
LHH Surname L - Z	10.15am		JKL Surname R - Z	1.00pm
MAS Surname A - K	11.00am			
MAS Surname L - K	11.15am			
RCR Surname A - K	11.30am			

<b>Year 9 - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>				
9A	9.00am		9M	11.30am
9B	9.15am		9N	11.45am
9C	9.30am		9P	12.00am
9D	10.00am		9Q	1.10am
9E	10.15am		9R	1.25am
9F	10.30am		9S	1.50am
9G	11.00am		9T	2.05pm
9H	11.15am		9U	2.20pm