



3 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of year 7 students,

I am writing with further information about the arrangements for mass testing and the return of year 7 to school. I apologise that year 7 students will have a delayed return but schools have been instructed to introduce mass testing before the return of students and to prioritise the return of older students. I also apologise for the difficulties some parents and carers encountered when opening the attachment to Friday's letter, I have been informed that this was due to a fault at the hosting company for our parental communications supplier and we have been assured that this will not be repeated.

The school will be testing students using Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. The testing is designed to be added to schools' other protective measures and to create an environment which is as safe as possible. Up to one third of all people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic and regular testing of students aims to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. It is therefore strongly recommended by the government that those returning to school are tested. An NHS infographic has also been attached to this letter about the actual swab test.

The government has provided the following information about the use of LFD tests:

- LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals
- No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested
- They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus
- As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (for example, in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health England recommends repeated LFD tests, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections
- If you test positive using an LFD, it is likely that you are infectious at that moment, whereas people testing positive on a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lab-processed test could be in the less infectious early or late stages of disease. This means that by using the lateral flow test we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further
- A negative LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk

Test results will be sent to parents electronically within 24 hours and the school will assist the families of any students who test positive. NHS advice is that anyone who has recorded a positive result in the last 90 days does not need to take a test but may still choose to participate if they wish. Repeat testing will be required for students in the remaining weeks before the Easter holidays, the tests will take place on the same day and at the same time for each tutor group. Thereafter, testing will be completed by students at home and guidance will be sent on this in due course. The three tests administered in school are designed to familiarise students with the tests before home-testing starts.



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Other schools in our Trust:
Kennett Primary School
The Shade Primary School
The Weatheralls Primary School

If you have any additional queries or concerns about the testing, please email the school at rapidtesting@staploeducationtrust.org.uk.

Year 7 students are invited into school for testing on **Friday 12 March** according to the following timetable:

<u>Form</u>	<u>Time</u>
7SD	08:50
7JD	09:20
7ZH	10:20
7JB	10:50
7MT	11:20
7CK	11:50
7LD	13:00
7CS	13:30
7IH	14:00
7JK	14:30

Families have three options for the testing on this day.

Option 1 – students to attend school for approximately 30 minutes to take the test

Students opting to do this should arrive at Beechurst Gym via Beechurst playground where they will be asked to queue (while social distancing) for their test. After the test, students should leave site and return home immediately. Students do not need to wear school uniform for this option but will need a mask. We are grateful to families who have already completed the consent form for the test. Any other families who are planning to take this option are also asked to complete the form below as soon as possible. <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bYr3yhP-sUO4TLVvSKXz6H3tuzEbwGVNoZOCXtU8CsIUQk1ONUMyNk1BTEFMUEgyNkEwNURIMzdTTS4u>

Option 2 – students attending school for the full day in order to take the test

We are aware that not all families will be able to arrange for their child to attend for a specific 30-minute slot during the day. Therefore, if necessary, students will be able to attend for the entire day of their testing. In this case, they should attend in full school uniform with a mask and report to their usual tutor room by 8.30am. They will spend the day in school and will be tested during the course of the day. Please note that they will not have access to the canteen on the testing day and should bring a packed lunch. School buses will run as usual throughout the week commencing 8 March and beyond. Parents and carers of students who will be attending for the full day will also need to complete the consent form.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bYr3yhP-sUO4TLVvSKXz6H3tuzEbwGVNoZOCXtU8CsIUQk1ONUMyNk1BTEFMUEgyNkEwNURIMzdTTS4u>

Option 3 – parents and carers do not give consent for the test

Although it is encouraged, some parents and carers may not wish to give consent for the testing. Their children should not attend school on the testing day but may resume school the next day.

To help the school to plan for the testing day, all families are asked to complete the following form to indicate which option they intend to take. We would be most grateful if this could be completed by 9am on Monday 8 March;

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bYr3yhP-sUO4TLVvSKXz6LT_0IJLbvpKkO9ZgdNzenxUMzNDSkJCTDBWTjlyOTBPSjBBTkFWS0RJOc4u

Return to school

Following the testing day, **all** year 7 students should resume school on **Monday 15 March**.

- Students should proceed directly to their tutor room on arrival at the school
- Students will have a virtual assembly during tutor time
- Students should wear full school uniform
- Students are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle and their usual school equipment
- Students will not require PE kit on this day. Students have been informed via their PE google classroom where to meet their teacher for their first PE lesson as well as which activity they will be participating in and which equipment will be required
- Year 7 students will be able to visit the canteen
- All school transport will be running

The new routines from the Autumn Term will all be resumed including one-way systems, staggered breaks and lunch time, the cancellation of assemblies and the requirement for social distancing where possible. In addition, the government has now stipulated that at least until Easter all students should wear a mask when in lessons and corridors as well as at social time when they are unable to social distance.

Remote learning

Remote learning will continue to be set for year 7 until Thursday 11 March.

Vulnerable students and children of keyworkers provision

The school will continue to be open to vulnerable students and the children of key workers from year 7 until Thursday 11 March.

Testing for households, childcare or support bubbles of students

The government announced on Sunday that testing is also offered to households of families whose children access education or childcare. Full details of this initiative can be found from the link below.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=ca1c659b-95d6-490e-87c6-d6c09e85ecfb&utm_content=daily

We very much look forward to welcoming students back to school and remain grateful for parents' ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



Jon Hampson
Headteacher