



Dear Parent or Carer,

Autumn testing arrangements-Year 8 transitioning to Year 9 ()

Thank you for your continued engagement in the Covid-19 testing programme.

We are unsure about the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, so we want to be prepared for all scenarios. In accordance with Public Health advice and the DfE, testing is expected to restart on return in the autumn. We will offer your child **two** tests on-site before continuing regular testing at home. Parents of students in current Years 7-10 who were aged 11-15 in January 2021 have already given consent for the asymptomatic test programme. If you have previously not provided consent and now wish to do so, please contact your child’s Pastoral Team.

The arrangements for your child entering into Year 9 is the following:

Year 9 students are requested to take their test at the following times on **Friday 3rd September**.

Time	Form	Tutor
1.30pm	9TI (g)	Miss Tisson
	9SC (h)	Mr Coleman
	9RD (i)	Mr Dunne
2pm	9KE (a)	Miss Kerai
	9CS (b)	Mrs Straughan
	9BZ (c)	Mr Stelmaszczyk
2.30pm	9GO (d)	Mrs Gorman
	9HO (e)	Miss Galdin-O’Shea
	9BR (f)	Mrs Rajaram

Your child should enter and exit via the Burnell Gardens entrance. We are unable to accommodate parents or carers on site, but you can wait in Centenary Park to collect your child. We cannot confirm how long the process will take but expect the students to be able to test and leave within their allocated slot. Your child should only attend school on Friday 3rd September for their allocated period of testing. You should receive your test result within 24 hours. If it is negative your child may attend school on Monday 6th September.

Your child will need to register their unique barcode in order to receive their results. To do this, they will need to have important information with them when they complete their test. Ideally, they will also need access to a smart phone to complete the registration onsite. Your child will need to record the following at registration:

- name
- gender

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- date of birth
- ethnic group
- parent email address (to receive test results)
- parent mobile phone number (to receive test results)
- home address

Students will receive a second test in school on **Wednesday 8th September**. They can attend school as normal and we will organise the testing within lesson times. On this day they have permission to bring a smart phone to school for this purpose only.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Schools only needed to conduct contact tracing up to and including 18 July. Close contacts are now being identified via NHS Test and Trace and schools are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. The school may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases, and the school will continue to maintain seating plans to assist NHS Test and Trace with their contact tracing duties if needed.

From 16 August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. 18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 4 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they be worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college. Whilst the government no longer advises that face coverings are used in schools, we will continue to permit the use of face coverings if a student (or member of staff) wishes to wear one.

Hand Hygiene

Students should continue to ensure that they clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Further information about our procedures and protocols for COVID- related actions are available on our school website [here](#) including some frequently asked questions. Please note that these are subject to change in response to the latest government guidelines. We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Karen Wilkinson
Designate Deputy Headteacher