

# Wilmslow High School

Headteacher: J.H. Pullé, BA (Hons), Ph.D, PGCE, NPQH

Holly Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1LZ

Tel: 01625 526191 • Fax: 01625 536858 • Email: [reception@wilmslowhigh.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:reception@wilmslowhigh.cheshire.sch.uk)



Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, can I say a huge thank you for the support you have given the school over the past few months in relation to our delivery of remote learning. Your positive and helpful feedback, as well as your input at home, has enabled us to provide a comprehensive programme of learning for all our students.

Following the government announcement on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February about school reopening, we are now very much looking forward to welcoming all our students back on to the school site.

As you may already be aware, the government is requiring a full testing programme to be in place before schools can fully reopen, with students offered their first Covid-19 test before they return to classrooms.

The logistics of undertaking a phased testing programme on this scale for a school as large as ours are considerable. However, we have a comprehensive plan in place to ensure that our programme, which will begin on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, is in line with government guidelines. Once a year group has completed their first test, they will return to school if they receive a negative result. Our testing schedule will see all year groups offered a test and returning to on-site lessons by Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Further details of the programme for phased testing, including dates for the return of year groups to school will be shared in High Notes this Friday. We will also soon be sharing a 'Safe Return to School' programme with students, to ensure that they are fully prepared for the return to our school site.

In the meantime, I hope that the information below will help you to understand how this Covid-19 phased testing programme will be an integral part of our safe return to school planning.

## **A phased return**

Because of the requirements to offer a Covid-19 lateral flow test to every student before they can begin in-school lessons, the process of students returning to school will occur over a number of days. We plan to have finalised the timetable of testing and return to lessons for each year group by the end of this week. Between now and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, students should continue to engage with their respective remote learning programmes from home, or from school if part of the in-school provision.

## Testing programme

A key part of our planning for students to return is ensuring that we can offer and deliver an effective in-school testing programme. During the past seven weeks, we have successfully set up a daily testing centre in the school hall to help identify any students and staff who have been working in school who may be asymptomatic. We are confident that this programme can now be scaled up in order to offer the required number of tests to both staff and students.

## The importance of having testing available in school

Up to one in three people who have coronavirus have no symptoms (they are asymptomatic) so could be spreading the disease unknowingly. The lateral flow rapid testing means that we can now test staff and students who may be asymptomatic. This is a significant development that will help to identify positive cases more quickly, break the chains of transmission and reduce the disruption that students have experienced in recent months.

## Number of tests required

Once a student has undertaken their first lateral flow test and it has provided a negative result (this information will be communicated via text and email on the same day), he / she will be able to return to timetabled lessons the following day. After this initial test, he / she will then be offered two further tests, each one 3-5 days apart; during this time, students will continue to stay in school unless a positive test is received. Once these tests have been completed students will be issued with a home testing kit to support further regular testing (more guidance to follow).

## Consent for student participation

Please note that while a student's participation in this testing programme is voluntary, it is strongly encouraged, as it will help to make school as safe as possible for both staff and students. **It would be very helpful if you could complete the online consent form, which you will be sent tomorrow, as soon as possible to allow us to complete our testing planning.** Without this written recorded consent, a student will be unable to participate in the testing programme.

I appreciate that this letter will not provide you with answers to all of the questions that you may have regarding school opening to all students, but rest assured that we will be communicating more details over the course of the next few days, via email, the school website and High Notes.

Yours sincerely,



Dr J.H Pulle  
Headteacher