



25th February 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

Revised Schedule for Mass Testing at Bede's

We wrote to you yesterday, outlining our plans to get pupils back into school, following the Prime Minister's announcement that schools could reopen from Monday March 8th.

The initial advice was that it would not be permissible for the testing that is a key part of the return-to-school programme to be undertaken prior to that Monday. However, within minutes of our writing, we received an update from the Department for Education announcing that, in fact, we *could* do this. This is, obviously, excellent news: by starting the testing of pupils earlier, we will be able to start having face-to-face lessons that much sooner - about which we are delighted!

The letter that follows thus supersedes yesterday's letter, and takes account of the updated advice from the Department for Education.

We are committed to joining the Government Testing available to schools, which ties us into the Test and Trace process. Our exceptional nursing team will oversee the testing regime and the swabbing. We will share testing data with the NHS Track and Trace system.

All pupils are strongly encouraged to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme which will see us carry out lateral flow testing, on the school premises, three times; thereafter pupils will be able to continue a home testing programme twice a week.

Please do note that this is a voluntary testing programme; however, we do strongly encourage pupils to participate therein to improve their own safety and the safety of others in the community. The testing is designed to identify asymptomatic cases of Covid (that is, cases where there are no symptoms that are evident), and is one element of our programme to keep pupils and staff as safe as is possible as the school begins to reopen. It is important to reiterate that other measures must remain in place: mask-wearing, social distancing, hand washing. Pupils cannot assume that they are 'in the clear' even if they return a negative test.

We will be writing to you at the start of next week with precise details about how to book a time slot for your child, and the procedures that will need to be followed when pupils come into school to receive their first test.

- All **Upper Sixth and Upper Fifth day pupils and day boarders** to come into school on **Thursday March 4th** to be tested. Appointments will be available throughout the day. Once the test has been completed, pupils will need to return home. There will be no online lessons for U5 and U6 pupils on this day.
- All **First Year day pupils and day boarders** to come into school on **Friday March 5th** to be tested. Appointments will be available throughout the day. Once the test has been completed, pupils will need to return home. There will be no online lessons for First Year pupils on this day.
- In addition, to avoid having to make two trips into school, families of day pupils who have siblings in different years, and who would otherwise be being tested on different days, will also be asked to book slots for Friday March 5th - regardless of the year which those siblings are in (so, for example, siblings in the Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth will be asked to book a slot on this day; however, siblings in the Upper Sixth and Upper Fifth are both due for testing on the same day anyway, so the issue does not arise)



- All **Lower Fifth and Lower Sixth day pupils and day boarders** to come into school on **Saturday March 6th** to be tested. Appointments will be available throughout the day. Once the test has been completed, pupils will need to return home.
- All **boarders who are able to return to school** to do so on **Sunday March 7th**. Appointments will be available throughout the day. Once the test has been completed, pupils will need to wait with their parents for approximately 20 minutes; if the test is negative they will be able to stay in school.
- Each pupil will need to take a second test, at school. For U6 pupils this will be on Monday March 8th, with other year groups following.
- The third tests will follow later.
- The Bus Service will begin again on Monday 8th March.

We will thus be able to recommence a full programme of face-to-face lessons from Monday March 8th. However, a number of pupils will not be able to be present in school, for a number of reasons. And we will certainly continue to offer 'blended' lessons where necessary, with some pupils present in Upper Dicker, and others joining those lessons remotely.

Over the coming weeks there will be a great deal of information concerning the return to school, protocols once that return has been accomplished, and the plans for assessment of pupils in the Upper Fifth and Upper Sixth years. We will continue to write to you, to update you at each point, but [we have also developed a website](#) where this information will be gathered, for your ease of reference. At the moment, that website does not contain a great deal of material, but it will quickly grow as more and more information is passed on.

We will write again, in the early part of next week, with full information about the procedures for booking a slot for your child to take their test, and the practicalities of how the testing days will run.

Yours, with thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Goodyer'.

Mr Peter Goodyer MBA FRSA
Headmaster



Provisional Schedule for Asymptomatic Mass Testing for all pupils

Boarding Pupils

Sunday 7th March

- Testing for all boarding pupils

Monday 8th March

- School reopens. Blended Learning available for those pupils unable to attend.

Wednesday 10th - Friday 10th March

- 2nd test for boarders

Third and subsequent tests will follow at appropriate intervals

Day Pupils and Day Boarders

Thursday 4th March

- Testing for Upper Sixth (Year 13) day pupils and day boarders
- Testing for Upper Fifth (Year 11) day pupils and day boarders
- No live lessons for these two year groups

Friday 5th March

- Testing for First Year (Year 9) day pupils
- Testing for families of day pupils who have siblings in different years, and who would otherwise be being tested on different days
- No live lessons for First Year pupils

Saturday 6th March

- Testing for Lower Sixth (Year 12) day pupils
- Testing for Lower Fifth (Year 10) day pupils

Monday 8th March

- School reopens. Blended Learning available for those pupils unable to attend
- 2nd Test for Upper Sixth (Year 13) day pupils in school time
- Additional Test for Lower Fifth (Year 10) and Lower Sixth (Year 12) pupils who were tested on Friday 5th March

Tuesday 9th March

- 2nd Test for Upper Fifth (Year 11) day pupils in school time

Wednesday 10th March

- 2nd Test for First Year (Year 9) day Pupils in school time

Thursday 11th March

- 2nd Test for Lower Sixth (Year 12) day Pupils in school time
- 2nd Test for Lower Fifth (Year 10) day Pupils in school time

Friday 12th March

- 3rd Test for Upper Sixth (Year 13) day Pupils in school time
- 3rd Test for Upper Fifth (Year 11) day Pupils in school time

Monday 15th March

- 3rd Test for First Year (Year 9) day Pupils in school time



Tuesday 16th March

- 3rd Test for Lower Sixth (Year 12) day Pupils in school time
- 3rd Test for Lower Fifth (Year 10) day Pupils in school time
- Testing kits distributed for use at home to all pupils