

## Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate - COVID-19 Information

Dear Parents and Guardians

We wish to welcome all our new parents and guardians to Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate and also our parents and guardians of existing students. We hope you have had an enjoyable summer and that your son/daughter is looking forward to the academic year ahead.

As students begin to arrive back onto campus, we thought it would be helpful to outline some of the key information regarding health and safety and to help address questions that you may have.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption around the world over the past 18 months and continues to pose challenges for many people. In the UK, we are fortunate that the vaccination programme has been extremely successful with high take-up from those aged 16 and over. This has meant that, although there remain cases within the wider population, the risk of serious illness from COVID-19 has now been much reduced. Nationally, the move is now away from stringent restrictions and towards people protecting themselves with sensible precautions.

More details of this approach, in the form of guidance for parents, can be found at this link:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19)

We will be adopting a responsible and measured approach over the coming year, based on the latest government guidance, and aiming to keep all members of the community safe whilst maintaining our high standards of education.

In addition to following national guidance, as required by law, we have carried out specific risk assessments to take into account the unique nature of our campus and the wider school community. As a result of these risk assessments, we will be implementing appropriate control measures to protect our community during the autumn term. We will continue to encourage a caring, respectful, and considerate approach to each other, helping us all to think about our actions and how they impact other people.

Although we will adapt our measures if this becomes necessary, please find detailed below some of the precautions we will continue to have in place from the start of term.

### Testing

COVID-19 testing provides a valuable protection for the community, identifying any asymptomatic cases quickly to help avoid transmission. Although not compulsory, we would hope that as many members of the community take part in our testing programme which is broken down into three phases below:

Prior to arrival on campus for the new term, all students in Year 7 upwards are asked to undertake a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test the night before, or morning of, arrival:

Day students should test using the home test kits provided at the end of last term.

Boarders should also test using the home test kits, provided at the end of last term, and have the means to show their test result (email or SMS) on arrival at their boarding house.

New students, or any student without a home test kit, can order one from: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> to test at home prior to arrival on campus.

Students should not return to campus if they record a positive result on this pre-arrival home test. A PCR test should be booked, and subsequent NHS advice followed.

Boarding students travelling from abroad can provide evidence of their tests used for travel, as an alternative to the above.

Once on campus, in line with government guidance, we will be asking all students to test twice, 3-5 days apart, at our dedicated Asymptomatic Test Centre (ATC).

Students need to attend our on-site ATC at the following dates and times:

Date	Time and students to attend Test Centre
Mon 6 Sep	1500 – 1730: Year 12 International Boarders
Tue 7 Sep	0730 – 0830: Y9 and Y12 Day Students (first test) 1530 – 1730: Y9, Y10, 1 Year GCSE and Y12 UK Boarders
Wed 8 Sep	0730 – 0830: Y10 Day Students (first test) 1530 – 1730: Year 7, 8, 11 and 13 Boarders
Thu 9 Sep	0730 – 0830: Y7, Y8, Y11, and Y13 Day Students (first test)
Fri 10 Sep	0730 – 0900: Y9, Y10 and Y12 Day Students (second test)
Sat 11 Sep	0830 – 1100: Y7-11 Boarders
Sun 12 Sep	0900 – 1100: Y12-13 Boarders
Mon 13 Sep	0730 – 0900: Y7, Y8, Y11 and Y13 Day Students (second test)

Please note that, for any students who are new to Queen Ethelburga's, or who have not previously taken part in testing, we require parental consent prior to testing for those under 16 years of age. Students 16 years and over can complete the consent form themselves.

If you have previously given consent, please **do not** complete this form again.

**To give consent, please follow this link to the [Consent Form](#).** Please also read the attached QE COVID-19 Testing Privacy Notice.

For the remainder of September, all staff and students will be asked to test twice weekly. Boarders and residential staff will resume their twice-weekly testing routine at our test centre, and home test kits will be available for day students and staff, as required. Testing beyond September is subject to further government direction.

Please continue to be aware of COVID-19 symptoms and students should not attend school if they have symptoms or have recorded a positive test result. A PCR test should be booked, and subsequent NHS advice followed. Any boarders testing positive for COVID-19 will continue to follow the same procedure, with students quarantining in separate accommodation for the ten-day isolation period.

Please continue to report all LFD test results to both NHS England and to school using these links:

- **NHS [link](#)**
- **QE [link](#)**

Please inform the relevant school team by email as soon as possible should your son or daughter receive a positive PCR test result.

#### **Contact tracing and self-isolation:**

*The responsibility for contact tracing, should a pupil test positive for COVID 19, has passed from the school to NHS Test and Trace. This means that it will no longer be the school that informs parents should their child need to self-isolate.*

*The Government has also said that from 16 August, children will no longer be required to automatically self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, you may be advised to take your child for a PCR test if they have been deemed to be in close contact with a positive case.*

**It is important to note that any child who receives a positive PCR test will still be expected to isolate for 10 days and will not be able to attend school during that period. It is also important that you inform school as soon as possible should this occur.**

#### **Masks**

The wearing of face coverings is no longer required as part of the Government guidance, however, the wearing of a mask remains a personal choice and we are recommending that masks continue to be worn in enclosed and crowded areas. Face coverings are expected to be worn on public transport and dedicated school transport.

#### **Cleaning**

We will continue with enhanced cleaning regimes across the campus with all frequently touched surfaces being a key focus. We will also continue to promote hand washing and good hygiene, with hand washing facilities and hand sanitizers available around the campus and in all classrooms for staff and student use.

#### **Other measures**

As with last year, to aid ventilation, windows and doors will be kept open as much as possible.

One-way systems will only continue to be in place where this aids movement around the school.

We will adopt a staged reintroduction of face-to-face assemblies on a year group or key stage basis initially.

This sensible approach will support the continued delivery of our high-quality education and exceptional pastoral support while keeping all members of the community safe. We will, of course, continue to monitor the situation and respond to any government changes to procedures or recommendations.

The safety and well-being of all our pupils remains our number one priority and should any parent have specific concerns about their child ahead of next year, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant school team using [college@qe.org](mailto:college@qe.org), [faculty@qe.org](mailto:faculty@qe.org), [kingsmagna@qe.org](mailto:kingsmagna@qe.org).

Yours sincerely,

Steven Turner – Head of King's Magna

Kevin Oldershaw – Head of College

Erica Papaglimis – Head of Faculty

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