



26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## SAFE RETURN TO PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well.

Following the PM's announcement this week we will be welcoming students back to school grounds from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. As part of the measures to help schools open safely Government guidance requires us to offer Lateral Flow Tests for Covid for students before they return to the classroom.

As I mentioned in my letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 we will be operating a phased return for students. Students will return to face to face teaching in the classroom as per the table overleaf.

Testing is voluntary, however, it is important that as many students as possible take part in the Covid-testing program to minimise the chances of an outbreak of Covid in our school community in the future.

In order to conduct the testing safely and support student transition back into school-based learning we will be following a pattern of students coming in for testing and going home on a designated day, and then starting school-based learning the following school day. Students who test positive for COVID-19 following the lateral flow test, will need to isolate for 10 days and therefore will not be returning to school as per the table below.

If a student tests positive, we will need to conduct a track and trace process and all close contacts will need to isolate for 10 days. We will make every effort to reduce the possibility of close contacts on the day of testing and ask that students adhere to social distancing guidelines whilst in school for testing.

If a student is called in for testing on Tuesday, they will only come in to take their test on that day and then start school-based learning on the Wednesday. We will continue to provide remote learning for students prior to their return to school-based learning.

Students are to wear school uniform when coming in to school for their LFT.

The timetable for students to be tested and return to school-based learning is as follows:

Day / Date	Year group coming into school for testing only and then returning home.	Year group starts school based learning.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 12 and 13	NA
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11	Year 12 and 13
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10	Year 11
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7	Year 10
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8	Year 7
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9	Year 8
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	NA	Year 9

## CONSENT

I wrote to you this week regarding you giving consent for your child to take part in the LFT programme. I would urge you to give consent for your child to be tested – if you haven't had chance to complete the recently distributed consent form, please click the link below to complete a form and give consent. There are further details about Lateral Flow Tests at the end of this letter.

[LFT Consent Form](#)

**The deadline for providing consent is Wednesday 3rd March 2021**

## RETURNING

While the news of returning to school is amazing and most welcomed as we take steps back to normality, please be aware that home schooling is still very much a possibility now that fast and easy-access testing has become more widely available, leading to more self-isolation.

## MAIN CHANGES

While there are many changes happening as we make the first steps to welcoming back our students, the main ones to be aware of right now are;

- Students and Teachers must wear a face covering in class and communal areas unless there is a medical exemption from wearing a face covering. Teachers can remove their face covering provided they are 2m away from students.
- Students to be offered a regular Lateral Flow Testing kit once they have completed three in-school tests
- Our after-school clubs and revision classes will be able to resume once we have welcomed **all** year groups back into the school classrooms
- Ventilation in classrooms is paramount. We will be keeping external windows and doors open where possible for air circulation, so please ensure your child has light layers to add/remove as necessary.
- In the event of a positive case in a child, close contacts will be required to return to remote learning and self-isolate for the government advised 10 days.

## STILL THE SAME

The safety of our school community remains our utmost priority and as such the following guidelines, whether vaccinated or not, still apply;

- Social distancing of 2 meters where possible
- Face coverings in all communal areas
- Frequent washing and sanitising of hands

MANAGING SICKNESS AND REPORTING: Please remember that you must not send your child to school if they are unwell or displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.

- New continuous cough.
- High temperature.
- Loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Any member of our school community that is displaying symptoms must self-isolate and be tested. In the event of a positive test result, we will inform Public Health

England (PHE) and require all students identified as being within prolonged close contact to the infected person to isolate for 10 days.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCHOOL DAY

**LESSONS:** The structure of lessons will return to the usual pattern of period 1 and 2 then a break then periods 3 and 4 then lunch followed by period 5 from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE:** To support social distancing students must enter and leave the school grounds through the entry / exit points outlined below. There are no staggered start times, students are to come into school as they normally would and go straight to their zoned area. End times in the table below, are to minimise congestion and choke points when students exit at the end of the school day.

Year	Entry / Exit point	Time if applicable
7	St Lawrence Road gate / nearest gate to the period 5 lesson	3.25pm
8	St Lawrence Road gate / nearest gate to the period 5 lesson	3.25pm
9	St Lawrence Road gate / nearest gate to the period 5 lesson	3.30pm
10	Alton Road Gate / nearest gate to the period 5 lesson	3.30pm
11	St Lawrence Road gate / nearest gate to the period 5 lesson	3.30pm
12	Alton Road Gate / nearest gate to the period 5 lesson	3.35pm
13	Alton Road Gate / nearest gate to the period 5 lesson	3.35pm

At the start of the school day students should go straight to their tutor room and make use of the hand sanitizer.

**LOCKERS:** To minimise spread of the virus, lockers will be out of bounds in communal areas, students will need to take their belongings between lessons.

**LARGE GATHERINGS:** There will be no whole school assemblies taking place throughout the Spring Term to ensure safety.

**BREAK/LUNCHTIMES:** Students must be in their zonal areas for the duration of break and lunchtimes. There are indoor and outdoor zonal areas, these are the same

as the Autumn term. Face coverings in classrooms, corridors, communal areas and zonal areas should be worn unless students are eating or they outside and can maintain a safe 2m distance. We will be offering a hot and cold meal option as usual, alternatively please provide your child with a healthy packed lunch.

**SCHOOL RULES:** We expect our students to return in full school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform is important to our identity, and school community and we recognise the importance of establishing our school as a family of learners together and uniform is integral to this.

All normal school rules will apply as well as additional expectations around behaviour in corridors and the maintenance of social distancing. If students choose to ignore these expectations then the school will apply the normal range of sanctions.

**STATIONERY:** We encourage students to bring in their own stationery in a plastic based pencil case.

**SAFETY AND CLEANING:** Ensuring that our school is kept clean is a key part of our plan. This means regular cleaning of all shared spaces including classrooms, corridors, IT suites and toilets. We will put in place a “cleaning habit routine” at the start and end of every lesson in every classroom that is being used.

Hand sanitiser will be the principle means of securing hand hygiene and will be easily accessible across school grounds.

## SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

As per the Autumn term, 6<sup>th</sup> Form students are allowed to study at home when they do not have lessons timetabled and they are only expected to come in for registration if they have a lesson during period 1.

## ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) will take place in school from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March as per the table above.

During their first weeks of school students are offered three tests, though these are voluntary we encourage all students to take part as it's the best way to ensure a safe return.

Once students have completed 3 tests home self-testing kits will be provided.

How the home testing works - Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which comes with the LFT kit, you will need to conduct the test twice a week. Results are ready in around 30 minutes as the LFTs supplied do not require laboratory processing.

Once the LFT has been conducted you will need to log the test result online and also, separately, inform the school of the result by email.

## VACCINATED?

Should you or your child/ren be offered a vaccine, we will do everything to support you in accepting, please do let us know if it clashes with any timetable commitments, and we will do our best to accommodate.

Please be aware that should you or your family have the vaccine, or already be vaccinated, you and your family still need to adhere to the 'Stay Safe' rules regarding social distancing, face coverings, hand hygiene etc. While you may be protected from Covid-19 many in our school community are not, and even vaccinated people could still carry the virus.

As always, I thank you for your ongoing support in welcoming our students back from 8<sup>th</sup> March, and in the meantime, please continue to take care and stay safe.

Best Wishes,



**Simon Underdown.**  
**Headteacher.**



## Lateral Flow Testing FAQs

### What if a student tests positive?

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents/legal guardians will also be notified.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done on testing sites) to confirm the positive result, they will be able to do this at school or take a test kit home. During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate. Once result is received, if it's negative, the pupil can return to school.

If the result of this secondary test is positive, the pupil and household members will need to self-isolate for 10 days following government guidelines. **Please inform the school office as soon as you receive this test result. You will need to show your results to the school office.**

We will continue to support pupils with their education remotely. We recognise this may be disruptive for your family but it is really important to isolate to prevent the spread of the virus.

### What if a student tests negative?

**They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive in the first 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear within the 48hours you can assume it was negative.**

### What if my child develops symptoms?

**This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms.** If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss of change to your sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

### Who administers the test?

The test will be self-administered and supervised by trained staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can assist with taking the swab.

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents/legal guardians will also be informed.



### **Is there a cost?**

Testing is free and provided by NHS Test and Trace.

### **How do I register and give consent?**

In order to process the test, we need to register and receive consent from all participating students. This must be done prior to any in-school testing. Please fill in this form:

[LFT Consent Form](#)

### **How will you process this data?**

For further information on how this data is obtained, retained and processed please refer to the Covid-19 Privacy notice: <https://www.tsatrust.org.uk/legal/privacy/>