



3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. Here at Plymouth High we are all looking forward to welcoming back our students after a long period of remote learning.

We understand there's a lot of information to take in ahead of March 8, and we are keeping all information as succinct and useful as possible; please refer to this week's letter from Mr Willis and Mrs Eales-White for specific year group return dates.

Our top priority is safety in our school community and working together towards keeping Covid-19 at bay.

This letter we will include details around;

- Testing; The 'when, how, where and why'
- Face coverings
- School 'drop off and pick up' safety

As we mentioned in a previous letter, the news of returning to school is amazing and most welcomed as we take steps back to normality. Please be aware that remote learning is still very much a possibility now that fast and easy-access testing has become more widely available, likely leading to more self-isolation.

## TESTING

As you may know, Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) will take place in school from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

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 in school, 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.

Please see the video below for easy-to-follow guidance on how to take the LFT test at home.

**Video:** [How to take a combined throat and nose swab for COVID-19](#)



Combined with our various other protective measures in place throughout our school, these tests will help staff and pupils to remain in school safely, as up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms.

By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our schools open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but we would encourage everyone to take it.

**For more information on our testing please see our [Trust site](#).**

## FACE COVERINGS – GENTLE REMINDER

Students and Teachers must wear a face covering in class and communal areas unless there is a medical exemption from wearing a face covering or 2m plus social distancing can be maintained.

### Looking after your face covering:

- Students are expected to look after their own face covering and follow [government guidance](#) on wearing them.
- Whenever a student takes off their face covering it must be safely put away or disposed of in a lidded bin.

## SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP SAFETY

As you are aware, the safety of our students, staff and school community is of huge importance to us. When you are on school grounds, please do take the time to familiarise yourself with the new safety measures on posters around the school.

Main points are:

- Always wear a face covering when dropping off or picking up
- Remain the socially distanced from others
- No gathering in groups

Please remember, even if you have been vaccinated, you must still follow these rules to keep everyone protected from Covid-19.

**FINAL NOTE...** It's by working together that we can keep schools open and students learning. We recognise the toll 'home schooling' has taken on our students and their families and for your commitment to remote learning each day we thank you. You've done a great job.

Very best wishes,



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

