



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

1st March 2021

Asymptomatic Testing and Phased Return to School from Monday 8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware from recent government announcements we are now finally able to put plans in place to facilitate a safe return for all our students from Monday 8th March onwards. We are aware that many students (and you as parents too) will feel very anxious about coming back to school so if you could talk through the following information, hopefully your child will get a sense of what will be expected of them and how they can keep themselves and others safe. Obviously from their point of arrival at school, staff will also be available to offer support and we are most certainly looking forward to welcoming all our students back again, school really isn't the same without them!

Covid-19 Asymptomatic testing

Up to one third of people who have Coronavirus are asymptomatic. The Government has therefore asked schools to test students three times using Lateral Flow tests during the course of the first two weeks back at school. Asymptomatic testing will help to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chains of transmission. The test is voluntary, but I would actively encourage everyone to take it.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, then you need to provide consent. Thank you to everyone who has responded to date – we already have almost 350 students registered. If you haven't yet provided consent and would still like to do so, then it is vitally important that you fill in the consent form using the link below. (Please note that you will need to complete separate forms if you have more than one child). We would very much appreciate it if you could complete the form as soon as possible and no later than Thursday 4th March so that we can begin the registration process:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=I3VEdeDtuE-EGMI476shsqjLMitBxdBowoc-x75QHJUMk5SWjRFUFZRQURNWk5HVUuHUTjZQRIE3SC4u>

How do the tests work?

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff, many of whom have already been involved in our testing centre since the start of January. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared individually with the student and for all students who are under the age of 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed through a text/e-mail notification from the online NHS system.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

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Headteacher: Lyndsay Watterson MA NPQH





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What happens if the test is negative?

Your child will be able to stay in school and resume their learning back in the classroom.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

Students need to be mindful of maintaining their social distance from others upon arrival at school, in particular in the time before they are tested and receive their test result in order to avoid being a potential close contact. If someone is identified as a close contact of a positive case then they will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

What if my child develops symptoms?

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

Children of critical workers/Vulnerable students who have been attending school

Students who have been attending school throughout January and February will have their final test in school on Thursday 4th March. From this point onwards, they will be provided with home testing kits (further information to follow).

Our phased return to school

As you can probably imagine, the testing process presents us with quite a logistical challenge upon our return as we need to test around 200 students a day, over a nine day period. Students are therefore being asked to come into school at phased timings on Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th March due to the fact that their first test has to be completed and negative before they are able to return to the classroom. Please see the attached testing schedule to ascertain the exact arrival time for your child on the days indicated below. We would very much appreciate it if students are able to keep, as closely as possible, to the timings outlined, as this will help the testing programme to run to schedule and also ensure that students are not missing their learning whilst they wait for their test.

Monday 8 th March:	Phased return for Years 11, 13 and 12
Tuesday 9 th March:	Phased return for Years 7 and 10
Wednesday 10 th March:	Phased return for Years 8 and 9

Once students have had their first negative test result they can return to the classroom and will therefore start to attend school as normal for the remainder of the half term.

We are keen to ensure that the transition from home learning back into the classroom can be as smooth as possible. Remote learning will therefore continue for students until their point of return e.g. for Year 9, their lessons will be on Teams until lunchtime on Wednesday 10th March, with their testing taking place during the course of that afternoon.

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From Thursday 11th March, all students will be back in school full-time and the government has stipulated that attendance regulations come back into force from this point. Second tests will then continue to take place as per the attached rota, with students being called out of lessons as necessary to attend the testing facility.

As stated earlier, asymptomatic testing is voluntary although we would actively encourage participation in the programme. If consent has not been provided for an individual student upon their return, they will return directly to the classroom following their arrival into school as per the timing within the rota.

Please look out for further communications from us throughout the week as we continue to prepare for our students' return. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Lyndsay Watterson
Headteacher