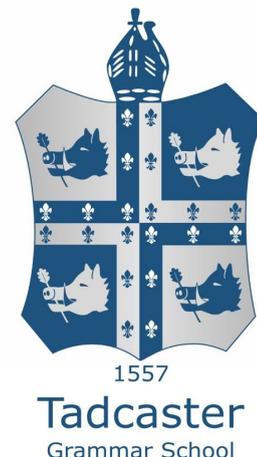


# Be Your Best Self

Tuesday 5th January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers (& students),

I hope this finds you well? The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Outline our intended approach to coronavirus testing in school and to ask you to complete a consent form for each of your children **DEADLINE 7pm Wednesday 6th January 2021**
2. Ask you to consider if you would be able to assist with our in-school coronavirus testing programme **DEADLINE 7pm Wednesday 6th January 2021**
3. Give a reminder about remote learning expectations
4. Signpost the in-school provision booking procedure if you are a critical worker family
5. Update you on the enhanced precautions in school associated with coronavirus infection prevention
6. Update you on the government expectations for examinations in 2021

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## 1a. Coronavirus Testing In Schools

We are hoping to be able to offer coronavirus lateral flow testing for staff and those students on-site during lockdown and also when all students are invited back into school. These tests will contribute to staff and students being able to remain in school safely.

The test is voluntary and I would also like to reassure you that we will not issue a test to any young person without appropriate consent or deny any student their right to attend school should your family decide that testing within school is not appropriate for your child.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. For under 18s, staff will oversee the swab process. We are informed that in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England they were shown to be as

accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

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### **1b. Gaining Consent For Coronavirus Testing In Schools**

Please complete the form below and read the enclosed consent statement. Each of your children will need a separate form to be completed. Please complete the consent form whether you are giving consent or not.

By consenting to the testing in school, if your child is in close contact with a student who has tested positive, your child will be able to remain in school as we would continually test them for a further 7 days to ensure they are not carrying the virus.

If you choose not to have your child included as part of the programme, and they are identified as being in close contact with a student who tests positive for coronavirus, your child will have to remain off school for 10 days as per national guidance.

Before completing this form, please read the privacy notice regarding the sharing and storing of personal data. It can be found on the school website [HERE](#)

[CONSENT FORM](#) **DEADLINE 7pm Wednesday 6th January 2021**

This deadline is particularly important for the children who are currently in school on our key worker/vulnerable student programme

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### **2. Your assistance required: Volunteering to help administer coronavirus tests in school**

We may need to recruit and train a team of adults to assist us to administer the tests.

The tests are Lateral Flow Device Tests and involve students self-administering a swab both on their tonsils and up one nostril (see infographic later in the letter). Results are readable in 30 minutes.

The roles we need to fill include data collection, processing of samples and test assistants. The hours would be from approximately 7.30 until 16.00 and would vary across a week.

We are looking to staff these positions for the current lockdown period, which we understand will be until the February half-term break, and then the period after this when we are hoping to welcome back

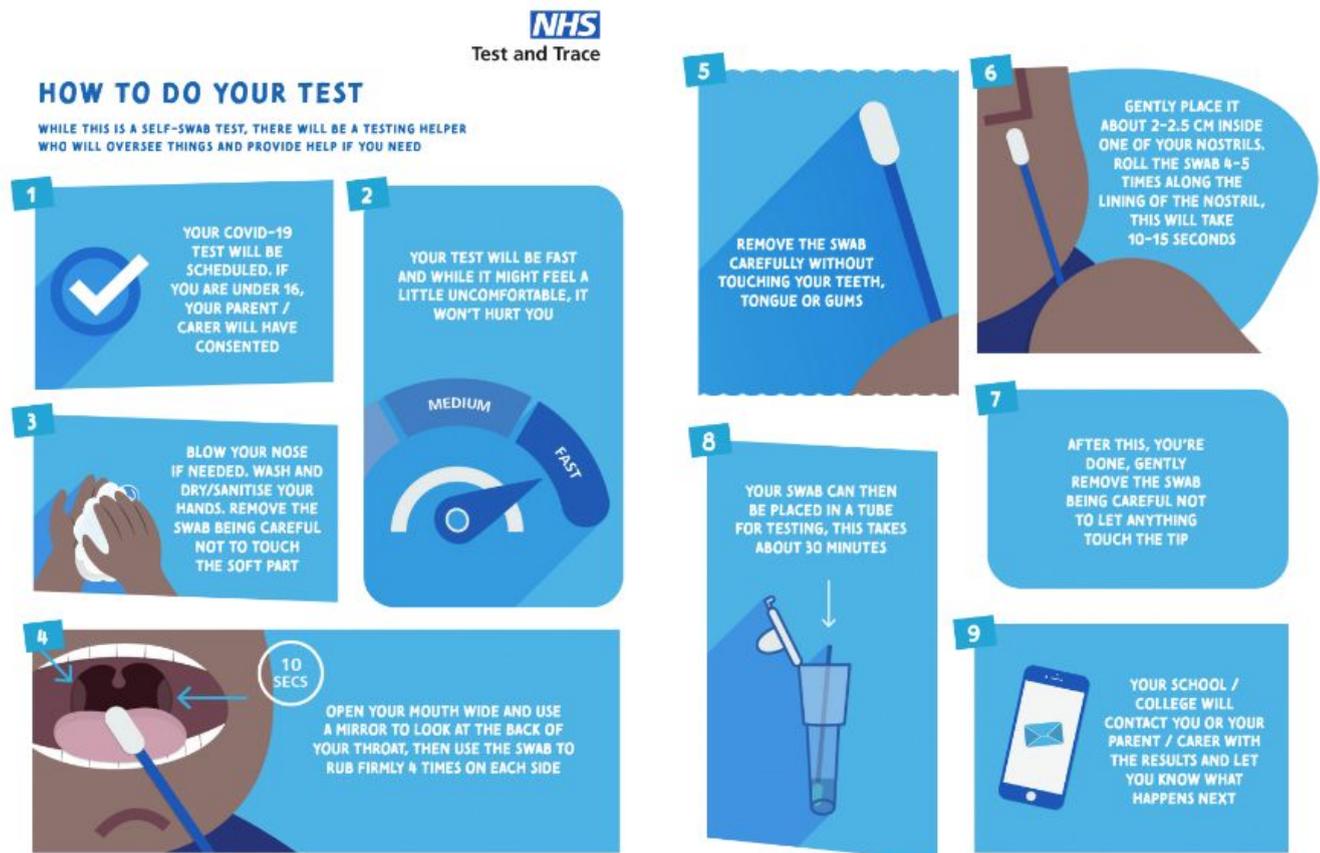
all students into school.

We may be able to offer some remuneration, but this is dependent on Government funding.

If you would like to offer support please complete this form as an expression of interest.

**IN-SCHOOL TESTING TEAM** **Deadline: 7pm Wednesday 6th January 2021**

If you have any queries, please contact Ms C Mulhern (Deputy Headteacher)  
c.mulhern@tgs.starmat.uk



### 3. Remote Learning

From today students will access on-line learning at home.

- Subject teachers will upload the work they are setting to their Google Classrooms.
- Students should follow their normal daily timetables.

**Enhanced remote learning provision** will be prioritised for students in years 11, 12 & 13 during the period Tuesday 5th January 2021 - Friday 8th January 2021. Teachers will use the normal teaching contact time

to ensure that enhanced remote learning is as effective as possible. A variety of approaches will be used which may include:

- A teacher-led introduction to the tasks to be completed, the resources which will help and the time limit for completion.
- “Live” explanation using Google Meet or pre-recorded lesson commentary.
- The teacher is available for students to ask questions during the timetabled lesson.
- Students asked to post work on the Google Classroom to check progress and understanding.
- The teacher provides additional resources to assess learning as the lesson progresses.
- Feedback from the teacher either to individual students or as whole class feedback.

Students are expected to be online, accessing the Google Classroom and school emails at the times when their timetabled lessons take place.

A reminder that all the work set is compulsory.  
Student engagement will be monitored.

#### **Remote Learning Acceptable Use Agreement (AUA):**

In order for your child to be able to access an **enhanced remote curriculum**, an AUA needs to be completed by parents and their children.

The AUA also needs to be completed in order for parents to access Parents’ Evenings.

Link to Acceptable Use Agreement: [HERE](#)

Also available on school website: [HERE](#)

At the time of writing, **37** students/parents have yet to sign off on the above. These students alone cannot be granted access to enhanced remote learning as safeguarding expectations have not been read, understood and signed-off.

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#### **4. Booking in-school provision if you are a critical worker family**

Children with at least one parent or carer who is [listed as a critical worker](#) are eligible for a school place during the national lockdown.

It is likely you will be contacted by the school to verify your eligibility. If it proves necessary, we will ask for evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker, such as your work ID badge or pay slip, as per government guidance. It would be irregular to request a place in school for a year 10 or 11 student.

The booking form is: [HERE](#)

**Deadline for completion: 6pm Thursday 7th January 2021.** Applications received after this deadline will not be considered and a place not provided.

Please also note that the provision your child will receive in school will be in accordance with that offered to students learning at home. This will involve your child being located in the same classroom for 5 hours 20 minutes per day completing IT based work. As such, please could I ask parents to carefully consider whether they require this provision for full days, if at all.

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## **5. An update on the enhanced precautions in school associated with coronavirus infection prevention**

During the last week, key staff have been reviewing our school risk assessment to ensure all students and staff in school are safe and supported. This has been completed in response to information received from the government about the new strain of coronavirus. Key features include:

- An enhanced cleaning and sanitation regime;
  - Rebriefing staff and students about the requirement to socially distance and minimise contact;
  - Minimising staff attendance on the school site;
  - Minimising staff and student movement around the school site;
  - Robust internal track and trace procedures;
  - Enhanced personal hygiene provision and expectations.
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## **6. The government expectations for examinations in 2021**

In his announcement to the nation on Wednesday evening, the PM said it would not be fair for all examinations to go ahead as planned. We will of course confirm as soon as this is made clear.

The Department for Education has stated that public vocational exams and assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead as planned. Affected students will be contacted if things change, but in the meantime students should plan and prepare as normal for these examinations.

We hope that the government will provide us with its expectations for examinations/awarding grades soonest. You will be aware that the Prime Minister only tasked Ofqual with this task yesterday.

We need to keep all our students as prepared as possible for these eventualities. It is also important that students get the best learning provision in terms of preparing for their future learning. Until we have a clearer picture of what the arrangements will be for examinations/awarding grades to year 11 & 13 in the summer, our approach will be to provide enhanced remote learning for year 11 and 13 from today.

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We may need to make some adjustments to events on the school calendar during and after lockdown. I will of course let you know about these immediately.

Kind regards,

**Mr A Parkinson**  
**Headteacher**