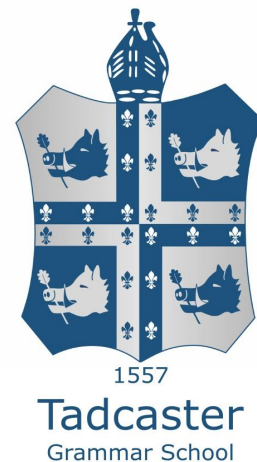


Be Your Best Self



Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

Firstly, thank you so much for all of the supportive emails and messages sent to staff in school in recent days following my last update on the 26th February 2021. We all really appreciate this. This update is to make you aware of a number of final details in advance of our phased school reopening.

Over the last week all of our staff have worked way above and beyond training for testing roles, reordering all school buildings and rooms, managing our in-school provision for vulnerable children and those with critical worker parents whilst concurrently maintaining and developing our remote curriculum offer. I would like to record my heartfelt thanks to all of our staff for this, many who have worked in great excess of their contracted hours for extended periods of time unremunerated, and who will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. One of our core staff values is '*Students considered first*' and our recent experience has seen this shining with even greater brightness than normal under our current circumstances. Superb.

Asymptomatic COVID-19 lateral flow testing of students

We have had a fantastic uptake for the in-school COVID-19 lateral flow testing programme in school. Thank you so much for this. Whilst the testing is voluntary, we would encourage all our families to give consent for testing as a measure to protect students, staff, families and the wider community. In addition, this will give us the best opportunity to reconnect with students and re-engage them fully into school life and hopefully avoid groups being sent home to isolate.

The test is fairly straightforward to administer, but it must be done safely and with precision to avoid 'void' results. This is a useful video illustrating the testing sequence: [CLICK](#)

Thank you to all the parents/carers who have completed the consent form regarding in-school lateral flow testing (LFT) for when we reopen the school. Please could I ask those of you who have not yet completed the online form to do so immediately:

[CONSENT FORM FOR LATERAL FLOW TESTS](#)

Booking your COVID-19 lateral flow tests

Please click on this [LINK](#) to direct you to the booking page for your COVID-19 lateral flow tests.

If you are unfamiliar with this booking system, please click on this [link](#) which directs you to our handy help guide.

For all pre-booked COVID-19 lateral flow tests in school we are asking parents to arrange transport to and from the school. When bringing your child(ren) to school for their test appointment, please park in the main school car park and remain there until they return from their testing appointment.

Please also see:

Appendix 1: COVID-19 testing in school - what to expect

Appendix 2: Our phased return to school plan (**no changes**)

Face coverings-**an amendment since the 26th February 2021*

All STAR MAT schools have had a Face Coverings Policy in place since September 2020. Thank you to our students, staff and parental community for their continued support in adhering to this policy and helping to safeguard everyone involved.

These elements of the STAR MAT Face Covering Policy will remain:

- In secondary schools, face coverings should be worn by adults and students when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained;
- Face coverings do not need to be worn by students when outdoors on the premises, unless moving to school buses at the end of the day.

Following the recent reopening of schools announcement plus subsequent advice from education leadership professional associations, the STAR MAT Face Covering Policy has been amended to the following:

- Secondary staff and students in our schools will now be strongly encouraged* to wear face coverings within classrooms, unless exempt, as an additional precautionary measure until at least the Easter holidays, when this will be reviewed by the Department for Education;
- This expectation will start from Monday 8th March 2021 and include the in-school programme for vulnerable children and those with critical worker parents.

(* was previously 'be required')

The responsibility for providing face coverings rests with individual students and parents.

The school is not in a position to provide face coverings.

Please could we ask parents to ensure their children have appropriate face coverings on their person at all times in school (and perhaps a spare face covering in a school bag)?

The school will remain the arbiter of what is an appropriate face covering.

The awarding of grades this summer - Year 11 & 13

We will be writing to all Year 11 & 13 students and parents about how we will structure time in school leading up to stand down shortly, including details of centre based assessments.

Kind regards,

Andrew Parkinson
Headteacher

Tadcaster Grammar School

COVID-19 Testing - what to expect



When is the testing taking place?

You will have booked appointments for your child to attend COVID-19 tests in school. These will be from Thursday 4th March until Friday 12th March.



What if my child has previously tested positive for coronavirus?

Anyone who has tested positive for coronavirus in the last 90 days cannot participate in the testing programme.



How long will the test take?

The swab part of the test will take about 1 minute. Students will be on site for approximately 20 minutes.



Who will administer the test?

Students will do the swab test themselves. Trained members of staff and volunteers will talk them through the process.



Do students need to wear a face covering?

Yes. Students must wear a face covering when they come for their test. Students will remove their face covering to do the swab test and put it back on immediately after.



Do students need to wear school uniform?

No. Students do not need to wear school uniform when they come in for their test.



Where will testing take place?

Testing will take place in the halls across the school which have been specifically adapted to allow for the safe testing of up to six students at a time. Students will arrive in school in the car parks, bus park or on foot and be guided to the appropriate hall.



Will teachers know when students are being tested?

Yes. Teachers delivering live lessons will know not to expect students who are having a test to attend remote learning.



Can students do testing at home?

Students must do their first 3 tests in school. This is to ensure that they are doing the test correctly under the supervision of trained members of staff. Once students have had the required number of tests in school, they will be provided with testing kits to use twice a week at home.



Can parents attend their child's test?

No. The testing site is required to operate under strict guidelines to ensure the safety of students being tested and the members of staff and volunteers operating the test site. Unfortunately, parents will not be able to enter the test site, but are welcome to wait in the car park.



Do students wait for their result?

No. Students will leave the test site when instructed to do so. The test will be processed and recorded by a trained member of staff.

If a test is positive, we will phone parents immediately and provide further information about what you should do.

If a test is negative, you should assume your test is negative unless you hear from us. We will not be contacting families with negative results due to the volume of tests being conducted.



Do you share the test results?

Yes. The testing site operates as part of NHS Test and Trace and we are required to report all results to the NHS.

Appendix 2: Our phased return to school plan (no changes)

Our phased return plan in a nutshell						
Year Group	7	8	9	10	11	Sixth Form
Back in school:	Thursday 11th March	Monday 15th March				Thursday 11th March
All school transport will resume fully on Thursday 11th March.						

The detailed phased return plan for each year group

Catering Arrangements

To accommodate mass testing on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th March, the catering staff will be offering a reduced offer of food during these 2 days for year 7 students. We would encourage Year 7 students to bring packed lunches on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th March, however Year 7 students will be able to purchase Grab and Go Bags from the sixth form canteen if they need to.

For sixth form, there will be no catering available on these 2 days. We would kindly ask that if you are staying in school for the whole day, that you bring a packed lunch on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th March. Please note that sixth form will be able to use their vending machines throughout the day.

Full catering services will resume for all students from Monday 15th March. Please can we remind parents of the DfE guidance which states no water fountains in school can be available. Therefore students should bring water in their own bottles, sufficient for the whole day.

YEAR 7	Where am I?	COVID-19 testing
Monday 1st March - Friday 5th March	Remote curriculum at home Vulnerable students and children with critical worker parents programme in school	Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 1 in school and then return home immediately: Thursday 4th March
Monday 8th March - Friday 12th March	Remote curriculum at home - up to and including Wednesday 10th March Vulnerable students and children with critical worker parents programme in school - up to and including Wednesday 10th March Back in school in the Year 7 bubble - starting Thursday 11th March	Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 2 in school and then return home immediately: Monday 8th March COVID-19 test 3 will take place in school on Thursday 11th March. You do not need to book online for this test as year 7 will be in school.
Monday 15th March onwards	Continue in school in the Year 7 bubble	As all 3 tests have been completed. Students will be issued with their home testing kits from this week onwards.

YEAR 8	Where am I?	COVID-19 testing
Monday 1st March - Friday 5th March	Remote curriculum at home Vulnerable students and children with critical worker parents programme in school	Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 1 in school and then return home immediately Friday 5th March
Monday 8th March - Friday 12th March	Remote curriculum at home Vulnerable students and children with critical worker parents programme in school	Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 2 in school and then return home immediately: Tuesday 9th March Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 3 in school and then return home immediately: Friday 12th March
Monday 15th March onwards	Back in school in the Year 8 bubble	As all 3 tests have been completed. Students will be issued with their home testing kits from this week onwards.

YEAR 9	Where am I?	COVID-19 testing
Monday 1st March - Friday 5th March	Remote curriculum at home Vulnerable students and children with critical worker parents programme in school	No testing will take place this week for year 9
Monday 8th March - Friday 12th March	Remote curriculum at home Vulnerable students and children with critical worker parents programme in school	Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 1 in school and then return home immediately: Wednesday 10th March
Monday 15th March onwards	Back in school in the Year 9 bubble	<p>COVID-19 test 2 will take place in school on Monday 15th March.</p> <p>COVID-19 test 3 will take place in school on Thursday 18th March.</p> <p>You do not need to book online for these tests as year 9 will be in school.</p> <p>As all 3 tests have been completed. Students will be issued with their home testing kits W/C 22nd March onwards.</p>

YEAR 10	Where am I?	COVID-19 testing
Monday 1st March - Friday 5th March	Remote curriculum at home Vulnerable students and children with critical worker parents programme in school	No testing will take place this week for year 10
Monday 8th March - Friday 12th March	Remote curriculum at home Vulnerable students and children with critical worker parents programme in school	Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 1 in school and then return home immediately: Wednesday 10th March
Monday 15th March onwards	Back in school in the Year 10 bubble	<p>COVID-19 test 2 will take place in school on Tuesday 16th March.</p> <p>COVID-19 test 3 will take place in school on Friday 19th March.</p> <p>You do not need to book online for these tests as year 10 will be in school.</p> <p>As all 3 tests have been completed. Students will be issued with their home testing kits W/C 22nd March onwards.</p>

YEAR 11	Where am I?	COVID-19 testing
Monday 1st March - Friday 5th March	Remote curriculum at home Vulnerable students and children with critical worker parents programme in school	Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 1 in school and then return home immediately: Friday 5th March
Monday 8th March - Friday 12th March	Remote curriculum at home Vulnerable students and children with critical worker parents programme in school	Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 2 in school and then return home immediately: Tuesday 9th March Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 3 in school and then return home immediately: Friday 12th March
Monday 15th March onwards	Back in school in the Year 11 bubble	As all 3 tests have been completed. Students will be issued with their home testing kits from this week onwards.

SIXTH FORM	Where am I?	COVID-19 testing
Monday 1st March - Friday 5th March	Remote curriculum at home	Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 1 in school and then return home immediately: Thursday 4th March
Monday 8th March - Friday 12th March	Remote curriculum at home - up to and including Wednesday 10th March Back in school in the sixth form bubble - starting Thursday 11th March	Students travel to school for their pre-booked COVID-19 test 2 in school and then return home immediately: Monday 8th March COVID-19 test 3 will take place in school on Thursday 11th March but these still need to be booked online around your timetable.
Monday 15th March onwards	Continue in school in the sixth form bubble	As all 3 tests have been completed. Students will be issued with their home testing kits from this week onwards.

Please note that to accommodate mass testing on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th March, all sixth form lessons will take place in S block. A temporary timetable with rooms for these 2 days will be issued to students shortly.

End of document