

13th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Return to School September 2021

I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing regarding the return to school in September and plans for mass on-site covid testing.

As you may know, the government has again asked schools to test all secondary school students on-site, on their return to school in September, to try to prevent positive cases coming into the community and disrupting the start of the academic year. We have been asked to provide two on-site tests for each student, three to five days apart, with testing allowed to start no more than three days before the start of term.

We will therefore be setting up a testing centre in our Sports Hall, as we did this March, to enable us to offer on-site lateral flow tests to all students. All testing remains voluntary, though it is strongly encouraged. Parental consent is required for testing; we cannot complete any testing without your written consent. You will be sent an email regarding consent before the end of term and we would urge you to respond to this ASAP to aid us in the administration of the testing programme. The email will ask for key personal data relating to your child which is needed for the school to register and undertake testing. For parents/carers whose child was tested at King's in March, the system will be very similar to the previous data collection. **Please note that we do require new consent even if your child has previously had on site testing.**

Participation in the testing is not a prerequisite for your child/children returning to school. The tests that we will be completing are nasal swab only (there will be no tonsil swabbing). The tests are not painful to undergo and students will be guided through the process sensitively. Tests are

processed on site and you will be notified of results via email/text using the contact details you provide when giving your consent.

Testing will commence on site from Friday 3rd September, which is an INSET day. Students will be offered tests according to the programme below. Second tests will be carried out on site, by taking students out of lessons. **This programme enables us to start Year 7 back in school on Monday 6th September as planned, and Year 8, 10 and 11 students to start back in school on Tuesday 7th September as planned. There will be a one day delay for Year 9 students who will start back on Wednesday 8th September.**

DATE	WHO IS BEING TESTED?	WHO IS IN SCHOOL?
Friday 3 rd September	Year 7 and Year 11 – first test	No one – INSET day
Monday 6 th September	Year 8 and Year 10 – first test	Year 7 only
Tuesday 7 th September	Year 9 first test	Year 7, Year 8, Year 10, Year 11
Wednesday 8 th September	Year 7 and Year 11 – second test	ALL
Thursday 9 th September	Year 8 and Year 10 – second test	ALL
Friday 10 th September	Year 9 – second test	ALL

You will be sent an appointment time for your child's **first** test by email. We anticipate that these emails will be sent in late August. **Students must only come onto site for testing if they are asymptomatic.** Please ensure they arrive on site 3-5 minutes before their appointment. They must wear a face covering (unless they are exempt) and they must observe social distancing on the school site at all times. They should enter through the normal student entrance and they will be directed from there. When they have taken their test they will be asked to return straight home and await results. Please note - we will not be able to rearrange test times and students will be

'bubbled' during testing so it will not be possible for siblings in different year groups to have their tests at the same time. If your child is unable to attend their testing appointment, please email attendance@kingsschoolhove.org.uk to notify us. Second tests will be administered during term time and parents/carers will not be notified of the specific test times.

Any parents/carers who would be willing and able to volunteer to take part in the testing programme would be gratefully received. Testers will be working in two shifts on the above dates; in the mornings between 8.40 and 12.00 and in the afternoons between 12.00 and 15.00. Volunteers would need to take part in an induction session on 2nd September and complete some online training in advance. If you would be interested in taking part, please email our Business Manager Eleanor Edwards via e.edwards@kingsschoolhove.org.uk

Currently we are not expecting to have to retain any control measures on site from September, beyond promoting good hand hygiene, ensuring the cleanliness of the school environment, and ensuring good ventilation. Risk assessments will be updated accordingly. Clearly, things may change over the summer months and we will keep you updated should any return to school plans and/or control measures need to be amended.

I am enormously grateful to our wonderful support staff team who have shouldered much of the burden of track and trace, and covid testing responsibilities this year. We are very blessed to have such dedicated and skilled staff. Thank you, also, for your continued support of our school through a challenging academic year. I wish you all a pleasant summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Price
Headteacher