



CARLETON HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer,

School Re-opening & COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing in Schools

I hope this finds you and your families well.

You will be aware that following the announcement made by the Prime Minister yesterday that schools will re-open for all students from 8 March. Much of the new guidance is familiar to us as it does not depart too much from how we operated during the Autumn term. However, there are some subtle differences and we will communicate full re-opening information with you in due course. As has been the case throughout, the safety of our students and staff is paramount and our re-opening plans will be carefully considered to mitigate risk and will be externally validated.

Our first priority is to establish consent from parents/carers with regard to testing in school. Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD)s will support the return to face-to-face education by helping to identify people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms. Initially, students will be tested three times in school when they return. We have already established Carleton High School as an Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) through our testing of staff, vulnerable children and those of critical workers.

Students we have consent for will be tested on their return to school and then twice more at 3-5-day intervals. This is before secondary school staff and students move to a home testing model. Once the three in-school tests have been carried out, students will be provided with home test kits for regular testing. Testing remains voluntary but strongly encouraged.

Students will be required to self-administer the tests. This is with the exception of those children aged 11 who will be tested by an adult as per the guidance. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of the nose and throat and staff will be overseeing the swab process. Results will take approximately 30 minutes from testing and students and parents/carers will be informed if the result is positive.

As stated above, the tests are voluntary and will not take place without your consent. To give consent, please follow this [link](#), read the information and complete the online form by **9am on Friday, 26 February**.

For any queries relating to COVID-19 testing, please visit the 'Contact Us' tab on the school website, using 'COVID-19 Testing' as the subject name.

It is crucial that we obtain this information accurately and in a timely manner so we can plan the logistics of testing our students and be ready to welcome them back on 8 March.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Cross
Headteacher