



Pittville School
Cheltenham

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Headteacher Richard Gilpin

1st March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Lateral Flow Test – For your attention prior to students’ return to school, March 2021

Schools have been instructed to put in place lateral flow testing for all students as part of the return to school procedures. These tests must be conducted before the normal programme of lessons can re-commence. We will conduct the **first lateral flow tests** for the whole school starting on Wednesday, 3rd March, and finishing on Friday 5th.

This is an ambitious plan because it means testing over 800 students, but it will mean that we can start welcoming students back from Monday, 8th March when they will undertake their second lateral flow test. We will stagger this return as follows:

- Year 11 and Year 7 to return Monday, 8th March;
- Year 10 and Year 8 on Tuesday, 9th March; and
- Year 9, on Wednesday, 10th March.

Any positive cases identified during this testing phase will hopefully only involve that individual having to self-isolate-not a whole year group.

For the testing procedures from Wednesday, 3rd March, please refer to the table below.

| Wednesday 3/3 | Thursday 4/3 | Friday 5/3 |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Year 11 in Hall | Year 10 in Hall | Year 9 in Hall and Gym |
| Year 7 in the Gym | Year 8 in the Gym | |
| Ab1 – 8.45 Ab2 – 9.30 | Ab1 – 8.45 Ab2 – 9.30 | Ab1 – 8.45 Ab2 – 8.45 (HALL) |
| As1 – 10.15 As2 – 11.15 | As1 – 10.15 As2 – 11.15 | As1 – 9.30 As2 – 9.30 (HALL) |
| Li1 – 12.00 Li2 – 12.45 | Li1 – 12.00 Li2 – 12.45 Li3 – 2.00 (Hall) | Li1 – 10.15 Li2 – 10.15 (HALL) |
| 7St1 – 2.00 7St2 – 2.00 (HALL) | 8St1 – 2.00 8St2 – 2.45 | St1 – 11.30 St2 – 11.30 (HALL) |



Please note:

- Students will be invited into school for their test in tutor group order.
- It is vital students attend this appointment to be tested.
- If students fail to attend this appointment, they will not be admitted into school the following week until they have a confirmed negative test result (as long as consent has been granted).
- Students who arrive in school from 8th March onwards who have not been tested will be tested upon arrival (again as long as consent is given) then sent home until results are confirmed.

Can I remind you that the country is still in national lockdown. The following rules will be in force:

- Where possible, students should walk or cycle to school alone, for their appointment.
- They should not arrive in large groups and should socially distance at all times.
- They will need to bring a mask with them to wear on the school site.
- There is no requirement to wear school uniform on these testing days.
- There is no access for parents/carers to enter the school site.
- Once the test has been completed they should return immediately home and not wait for other students or congregate in public spaces.

Please see the map below which will show the entry points for each year group. Students must only use the designated entry and exit point.



Please note:

- Years 7 and 8 will enter and exit the site via the back gate on Cakebridge Road.
- Year 9 will enter and exit through the middle gate on Albert Road.
- Years 10 and 11, will enter and exit through the top gate on Albert Road.
- Please note that these will be the new exit/entry points for all year groups from Monday ,8th March onwards.

Remote Learning

In order to achieve our plan, we will need to adjust our "live lesson" offer. No lessons on Monday 8th and Tuesday, 9th March will be live. We will provide independent tasks for students which will be posted on Satchel one /Show my Homework. There may be some pre-recorded lessons.

Key worker students

We will continue to offer provision for critical worker children up to the return of school officially opening but it would make our lives easier if parents could find a way to look after children at home. Of course, we understand that this might not be possible.

Subsequent testing

The government requires us to do two more 'in-school' tests. This will be slightly easier for us to arrange but will still require a huge effort on the part of the school. Once three tests have been carried out in school, the government's plan is for parents to take on responsibility for testing using home testing kits that will be provided at some point in the future. We will provide more details on this in due course.

On return to school all of the measures that were in place before Christmas, such as staggered start/finish times, split breaks/lunches, one-way systems and an enhanced cleaning regime will continue. Facemasks will be required to be worn as before but with the additional requirement that they are worn in lessons. This follows government guidance.

Consent for testing

We have sent out all of the information regarding consent and we would like to thank parents/carers who have completed the consent form. However, there are still a significant number for whom we do not have consent and I urge you as a matter of urgency to complete this.

I want to make it clear that the school cannot and will not insist that a lateral flow test is done but the Government highly recommends that parents consent to these tests.

For more information on lateral flow testing and asymptomatic testing.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/information-schools-colleges-and-universities/covid-19-information-schools-and>

We recognise these are exceptionally challenging times and hopefully, by working together over the coming months, we can start to return to some sort of normality for our community.

Thank you for all of your continued support.

Kind Regards

R Gilpin
Headteacher

