



26 February 2021

Lateral Flow Testing and a Phased Return to School

Dear Parents and Carers

As we eagerly await the day when students can return to school, I am pleased to be able to provide details about a phased return approach and lateral flow testing for all those students with parental consent provided. A further letter will soon be sent to families of students in Years 11, 12 and 13 regarding exams.

Lateral Flow Testing

Based on Department for Education (DfE) guidelines, it is our intention to test all students three times at school before home test kits are then provided. More guidance on home testing will be issued later this term. This testing is to pick up asymptomatic cases and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. It is important to explain that testing can only be done with students who have parental consent (or students are able to self-consent if 16 and over). We have reopened the consent link as we would like to be able to test as many students as possible to support a safe return for all. If you have not already done so, please visit the link below to complete the consent form (if you have completed this already, please note that you do not need to do so again). We would be very grateful if you could do this by Wednesday 3 March 2021.

www.toothillschool.co.uk/consent

We will be providing a lateral flow test system which will be supervised by trained staff in appropriate PPE. The test is very quick; students will administer the test themselves. The results are normally returned within 30 minutes.

To ensure a safe return for all, each year group has a designated testing date when students will simply come to school for a lateral flow test. The tests will be conducted in the Sports Hall of the Leisure Centre and staff will be present in the Main Car Park to guide students to the entrance. On completion of the first test, students should return straight home. We will ensure there is adequate car parking space on the days below.

Year Group	Testing Date
7	Tuesday 9 th March
8	Wednesday 10 th March
9	Wednesday 10 th March
10	Tuesday 9 th March
11	Monday 8 th March
12	Monday 8 th March
13	Friday 5 th March

You will shortly receive more detailed information about the testing process along with confirmation of your child's appointment time. The second and third tests will be completed as part of the school day.

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Toot Hill School is a member of the Nova Education Trust | Registered in England and Wales—No. 7635510

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Returning to school

Students will return to school in a phased manner to ensure they are both comfortable and familiar with our routines and their timetables. Students should arrive on their allocated first day in full school uniform with the normal equipment.

The students will return as follows:

Year Group	School Return Date
7	Wednesday 10 th March
8	Thursday 11 th March
9	Thursday 11 th March
10	Wednesday 10 th March
11	Tuesday 9 th March
12	Tuesday 9 th March
13	Monday 8 th March

Remote learning will continue for students until their return to school. Please note that to enable us to plan effectively for an effective and safe return to school, live online lessons will no longer take place from Thursday 4 March 2021. Lessons will be set as assignments on MS Teams.

Children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Student Provision

Our provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable children will be in place until all year groups have fully returned to school on Thursday 11 March 2021. Please continue to book your children in using the following link that will close on Friday 5 March 2021:

www.toothillschool.co.uk/keyworker

Mask wearing

In line with recommendations we will be asking all students to wear masks in school other than for PE lessons. If your child is exempt from wearing a mask and does not already have an exemption card issued by the school then please contact us at school.office@toothillschool.co.uk. Please note that plastic face shields are not recommended for use in place of masks as they do not offer the same level of protection.

If your child refuses to wear a mask and does not have an exemption card they will be subject to the normal school behaviour policy in terms of consequences.

Uniform

We understand that some uniform items may no longer fit due to the long period of closure and that with many shops closed, replacing these may be difficult. We recommend your child to try everything on in advance of their return. Items can be ordered online and are currently taking three days to be delivered. If you have any concerns about uniform, please contact your child's Head of Year before the return date as we may be able to assist. The school's normal high expectations of uniform will be in place.

Lastly, I would just like to thank you all for your ongoing and considerable support.

Yours sincerely



Dr C Eardley
Head of School