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Dear Parents/Carers

Return to school and Covid lateral flow testing

I am writing to share plans for the return of all students to school on Monday 8th March and the testing programme for them. I have also included summary information about the Public Health preventative measures that will be in place, based on the updated DfE guidance.

COVID-Testing

The government guidance states that all students will return to school on Monday 8th March. During the weeks commencing 8th and 15th March they should complete 3 lateral flow tests.

If you haven't previously completed and sent a consent form to us for testing, please email us at hometesting@bentsgreen.sheffield.sch.uk and we will send you the relevant information. Alternatively, please contact the school office.

Please note: Parents/Carers who have previously consented to their child being tested will not need to re-consent, they will automatically be tested on their return to school.

Also, if your child was tested in school during lockdown, they will not need re-testing.

After the 3 tests are completed in school, all Parents/Carers who have consented to their child being tested will receive home testing kits and will be asked to support their child to test twice per week at home. There will be full instructions with the home testing kits.

When you have completed a home test kit you will need to share your result with:

1. The NHS via <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
2. School via the hometesting@bentsgreen.sheffield.sch.uk

The continued testing program will add an additional layer of protection in school to help minimise the risk of transmission of the virus. This will be in addition to all the other measures that are currently in place in school. It will help keep students, staff and their families safe and also reduce the amount of face to face teaching lost due to students having to isolate as contacts of someone who has tested positive.

Members of staff will also use home testing kits to self-test twice per week.

Public Health preventative measures – face coverings

In line with reviewed government guidance, students will be encouraged to wear face coverings when inside the school buildings, including classrooms. We are aware that our students do qualify for an exemption from wearing them and it is therefore voluntary.



Teachers will be able to remove their face coverings to help with communication when they are working in the classroom. Students who do choose to wear face coverings will be asked to remove them for PE.

Public Health preventative measures – Covid symptoms

If students have any Covid symptoms they must not come to school. If students or staff develop any of the key Covid symptoms (persistent cough, temperature or loss/change of sense of smell or taste) they should contact NHS to get tested and begin following the rules of isolation. A home test kit should not be used in this circumstance.

Students will be provided with home learning if individuals or groups of students have to isolate at any point due to Covid.

Along with the routine home testing, following this guidance should minimise the chance of anyone with Covid being in school, which is the best protection against its spread.

Public Health preventative measures – In school

- To further minimise risk we will be operating the same measures in school as we had during the first term:-
 - Students should wash hands regularly
 - Classrooms will be well ventilated
 - Students will be supported to follow the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' rules
 - We continue to maintain a rota of cleaning and re-stocking of soap
 - Staff will wipe down shared surfaces and resources before and after use
 - Staff will encourage social distancing where possible

Meetings will continue to operate remotely wherever possible. This will include parents' evenings, which we will continue to run through a phone appointment system. Annual reviews will continue to be completed by Teams or Zoom.

Yours Sincerely



Sacha Schofield
Headteacher