

Dear Parent, Carer and Student

You may be aware of the announcement by Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education, just last week that:

*“All secondary school and college students should be offered 2 on-site LFD [Lateral Flow Device] tests at an ATS [Asymptomatic Test Site(=school)], 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.”*

We have developed a provisional September return plan for all students. Please note this is subject to amendment (if for instance the Covid-19 levels fluctuate and we are given new guidance) so please do check the school website during late August for any changes.

All students will be invited in to school to carry out a LFD test. This will occur in the Lower Gym. Students will carry out the LFD test (similar to what they have been carrying out at home the past few weeks, except for new Y7 pupils) and then return home whilst we process results.

Students should only be at school for 15-20 minutes or so. They would not be required to wear school uniform.

Unless they test positive, the day after their first test they should return to school as ‘normal’. In full uniform, for an 8.30 start and 3.20 finish.

Parents will only be contacted if their child gives a Covid-19 positive result or the test is void (i.e. no news is good news).

The second LFD test (5 days later) will be carried out whilst they are at school and they will come out of a lesson to have the second test.

In order to allow us to carry out nearly 3000 LFD test in just over a week, different year groups will return on different days (a ‘staggered’ start). Unfortunately, this is inevitable with the quantity of students involved.

### **Y8 Students**

It has proved very difficult to schedule students’ testing. Our aim is to have students back in lessons as quickly, but as safely, as possible. With the resources we as a school have we are left with two options for Y8. The students can remain at home and have their first LFD test on The Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September and then come into school for lessons on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September. This seems a long wait and we recognise that being face-to-face with teachers (and with their friends) is the best way to take their learning forward.

As such, if Y8 students could come to school for the 15-minute first test on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September it means they are then allowed to attend lessons from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. However, we fully recognise that this may not be possible for everyone due to family commitments/other commitments. If we can, however, get the vast majority of Y8 students to have their test on the Saturday it does mean that teaching and learning can begin as soon as is possible on the Monday. If you are unable to have your child tested on the Saturday please let us know. (email [office@rmgs.org.uk](mailto:office@rmgs.org.uk)) If it is not going to be possible to test sufficient Y8 students then we may have to look at the alternative. This is not a decision we take lightly to ask the staff carrying out the tests or the students to come in (if only for a short time) on a Saturday, but as I am sure you can see it is with the students’ best interests at heart.

Please, if possible, attend school for your first LFD test on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September**.

(remember you will just perform the test and then return home).

Form	Time to arrive:
<b>A</b> (Aylward)	8.45
<b>B</b> (Bronte)	9.05
<b>F</b> (Faraday)	9.35
<b>L</b> (Lovelace)	9.55
<b>N</b> (Newton)	10.25
<b>P</b> (Pankhurst)	10.45
<b>R</b> (Rutherford)	11.15
<b>S</b> (Scott)	11.35

You should then attend school for a first 'proper' day on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 8.30**

Thank you for your patience with this, and we do realise that no solution will suit everyone.

Yours faithfully

Trevor Watson,

Deputy Headteacher