



25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As I'm sure you will have heard, schools are reopening to all pupils from the 8th March 2021. We're delighted that we'll be able to begin to return to some form of normality, but while we figure out the finer details of how this is going to operate, we need to keep you informed about a couple of important directives we have received.

1. Testing

We've been asked to test all students for COVID-19 three times, with a gap of three to five days between each test. In order to administer the tests **we need to stagger the start dates of students during that first week.**

First day back at school		
Monday 8 th	8.45	Year 11
	8.30	Year 12
	8.30	Year 13
Tuesday 9 th	8.45	Year 10
Wednesday 10 th	9.00	Year 9
Thursday 11 th	8.30	Year 8
Friday 12 th	8.30	Year 7

The government guidance on testing says this:

*Testing is voluntary, but those who are eligible for tests are **strongly encouraged** to participate to reduce the risk of transmission within schools and colleges.*

If you have not yet completed a consent form, please do so by following the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HOz15hFcB0WVWVO_YchcXOhI9_BIXCullmswSrZEei9UQjIFSVm3U0FDU1VZMUxKT1VHUKQ1UUQwWiQIQCN0PWcu

Years 7 and 8 will be tested on their first day back. For all other years, we will contact you with a time and date for your child to come in for testing before their first day back at school.

After the initial programme of three tests in school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. Students who have not taken the three COVID-19 tests in school will not qualify for home testing kits.

2. Masks

Students will be in their year group bubbles as in the autumn term, and many of the other arrangements will remain the same. However, **the government have now required that pupils wear masks not only in communal areas and corridors, but also in classrooms.** This will be reviewed at Easter, but in the meantime, please ensure your child comes to school with a mask.

Thank you once more for supporting the school through this lockdown – we've been really appreciative of all the positive messages. We're so proud of the hard work Southmoor pupils have put in at home, and we're looking forward to seeing them again.

Yours Sincerely

Sammy Wright
Vice Principal

/Users/peter/Desktop/Pupil Testing - Return to School - March 21.docx

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