

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### **Safe Return to Goodwin Academy from 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well.

Following the PM's announcement this week we will be welcoming all staff and students back to the school grounds **from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**. As part of the measures to help schools open safely Government guidance requires us to offer a Covid-19 Lateral Flow Test for students before they return to the classroom.

Therefore, the return to school will be staggered to ensure that Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) can be carried out safely and help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our community. Testing is voluntary, however, it is important that as many students as possible take part in the Covid-testing programme to minimise the chances of an outbreak of Covid-19 in our school community in the future.

#### **CONSENT**

I would urge you to give consent for your child to be tested – please click the link below to complete a form and give consent. There are further details about Lateral Flow Tests at the end of this letter.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha\\_kkmgEHn2jjmNvJpR8LJRHf5Hn9v3cGga5\\_5UM0ZFMVJHQVFOR1dETDRLVFpTUUIYMVpTMi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha_kkmgEHn2jjmNvJpR8LJRHf5Hn9v3cGga5_5UM0ZFMVJHQVFOR1dETDRLVFpTUUIYMVpTMi4u)

**THE DEADLINE FOR PROVIDING CONSENT IS TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH – 12.00PM**

#### **RETURNING**

In order to conduct the testing safely and support student transition back into school-based learning we will be following a pattern of students coming in for testing and then going home on a designated day per year group, and then starting school-based learning the following day.

For example, if a student is called in for testing on Tuesday, they will only come in to take their test on that day and then start school-based learning on the Wednesday. We will continue to provide remote learning for students prior to their return to school-based learning.

The timetable for students to be tested and return to school-based learning is as follows:

Date	Year group coming into school for testing only and then returning home	Year group starts school based learning
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Sixth Form	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11	Sixth Form
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10	Year 11
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7	Year 10
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8	Year 7
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9	Year 8
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	N/A	Year 9

While the news of returning to school is most welcomed as we take steps back to normality, please be aware that remote learning is still very much a possibility now that fast and easy-access testing has become more widely available. Please be aware that increased testing may lead to more self-isolation.

Provision for Key Worker/ Vulnerable students will continue as normal until they return to face to face teaching when their year group returns to school-based learning.

### **ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING**

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) will take place in school from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Details of timings will be sent next week to confirm the procedures for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> onsite tests.

During their first weeks of school students will be offered three tests, though these are voluntary we encourage all students to take part as it's the best way to ensure a safe return.

Once students have completed 3 tests onsite they will then receive home self-testing kits to be taken twice a week.

#### How the home testing works?

Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which comes with the LFT kit, students will need to conduct the test twice a week. Results are ready in around 30 minutes as the LFTs supplied do not require laboratory processing.

Once the LFT has been conducted you will need to log the test result online and also, separately, inform the school of the results. Further details will be sent in our Testing Letter next week.

### **MANAGING SICKNESS AND REPORTING**

Please remember that you must not send your child to school if they are unwell or displaying any of the following symptoms of Covid-19:

- New continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Any member of our school community that is displaying symptoms must self-isolate and be tested. In the event of a positive test result, we will inform Public Health England (PHE) and require all students identified as being within prolonged close contact to the infected person to isolate for 10 days.

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCHOOL DAY**

At the start of the school day students should go straight to their lesson 1 classroom as normal. The site will be open from 8.15am and students should be at their classroom no later than 8.25am.

To minimise spread of the virus, lockers will be out of bounds in communal areas, students will need to take their belongings between lessons.

There will be no whole school assemblies taking place throughout the Spring Term to ensure safety, due to minimising large gatherings.

Break and lunchtimes will be staggered so that the Year Group Bubbles do not mix. Year groups will have their own areas. We will be offering a hot meal option as usual, alternatively please provide your child with a healthy packed lunch.

There will be a “no cash” system in place, so use of the online payments system is essential to top-up student accounts.

There is an expectation that students will wear face coverings in classrooms and communal areas to minimise the risk unless they have medical exemption, this also applies to staff.

We expect our students to return in full school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform is important to our identity, and school community and we recognise the importance of establishing our school as a family of learners together and uniform is integral to this.

All normal school rules will apply as well as additional expectations around behaviour in corridors and the maintenance of social distancing. If students choose to ignore these expectations then the school will apply the normal range of sanctions.

We encourage students to bring in their own stationery in a plastic based pencil case as stationary cannot be shared with their peers.

Ensuring that our school is kept clean is a key part of our plan. This means regular cleaning of all shared spaces including classrooms, corridors, IT suites and toilets. We have put in place a “cleaning habit routine” at the start and end of every lesson in every classroom that is being use.



Hand sanitiser will be the principle means of securing hand hygiene and will be easily accessible across school grounds.

### **VACCINATED?**

Should you or your child/ren be offered a vaccine, we will do everything to support you in accepting, please do let us know if it clashes with any timetable commitments, and we will do our best to accommodate.

Please be aware that should you or your family have the vaccine, or already be vaccinated, you and your family still need to adhere to the 'Stay Safe' rules regarding social distancing, face coverings, hand hygiene etc. While you may be protected from Covid-19 many in our school community are not, and even vaccinated people could still carry the virus.

I understand this new information may raise questions, so please do contact the school with any questions you might have.

As always, I thank you for your ongoing support in welcoming our students back from March 8<sup>th</sup>, and in the meantime, please continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Smith  
**Principal**

## Lateral Flow Testing FAQs

### What if a student tests positive?

Following a positive test result the student and their household members will need to self-isolate for 10 days following Government guidelines. The student and their household **do not need to take a further 'PCR test'** (those done in testing sites) to confirm the positive result **unless they start showing symptoms**.

The student will switch to remote learning, while away from the classroom they can log onto Microsoft Teams during their allocated lesson times to receive work from their subject teachers. Please [click here](#) for guidance on remote learning and using Microsoft Teams. We will continue to support students with their education remotely.

While we recognise this may be disruptive for your family, it is important to isolate to prevent the spread of the virus.

### What if a student tests negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will be told if they test positive, so if you do not hear within the 48 hours you can assume it was negative.

### What if my child develops symptoms?

**This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms.** If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

### Who administers the test?

The test will be self-administered and supervised by trained staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can assist with taking the swab.

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents/legal guardians will also be informed.

### Is there a cost?

Testing is free and provided by NHS Test and Trace.

### How do I register and give consent?

In order to process the test, we need to register and receive consent from all participating students. This must be done prior to any in-school testing. Please fill in this form:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha\\_kkmgEHn2jjmNvJpR8LJRHf5Hn9v3cGga5\\_5UM0ZFMVJHQVFOR1dETDRLVFpTUUIYMVpTMi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha_kkmgEHn2jjmNvJpR8LJRHf5Hn9v3cGga5_5UM0ZFMVJHQVFOR1dETDRLVFpTUUIYMVpTMi4u)



### **How will you process this data?**

For further information on how this data is obtained, retained and processed please refer to the Covid-19 Privacy notice: [COVID-19-Lateral-Flow-Testing-LFT-Privacy-Notice-January-2021.pdf](https://www.tsatrust.org.uk/COVID-19-Lateral-Flow-Testing-LFT-Privacy-Notice-January-2021.pdf) ([tsatrust.org.uk](https://www.tsatrust.org.uk))

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[www.goodwinacademy.org.uk](https://www.goodwinacademy.org.uk)

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