

Friday, 18 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen yesterday's news regarding the staggered opening of schools in January. This has been planned to enable schools to plan for the rollout of routine 'Lateral Flow Testing' (LFT) for COVID 19 so that students can be tested on their return from the holiday. These rapid tests give results within 30 minutes and help identify people without symptoms of COVID-19 who are currently infectious. We know that a significant proportion of people have COVID-19 without symptoms, potentially around 1 in 5 of cases. Finding these cases and ensuring these individuals and their households self-isolate is vital to help stop the spread of the virus and keep as many children as possible safely in school.

Haverstock School has been the [pilot](#) school in Camden for this new approach this week so we are well-prepared for this roll out. As a result, we are able to bring all year groups back in the first week of term and also have tests available for all students on their first day at school and every three days thereafter.

Arrangements for the start of term

The DFE has permitted schools to hold an additional INSET day on 4th January to enable preparation to be made and Haverstock will take up this option. As a result, the first day of term will be Tuesday 5th January.

To ensure that testing is available for all students on their first day back at school, the arrangements for the return of students to their full, face-to-face timetable at Haverstock are in the table below:

24 Haverstock Hill, Chalk Farm, London, NW3 2BQ

Tel: 020 7267 0975

email: office@haverstock.camden.sch.uk

Headteacher: James Hadley

Senior Deputy Head: Mark Mayne

Deputy Head: Sarah Hide



| Year Group | Monday 4th January | Tuesday 5th January | Wednesday 6th January | Thursday 7th January |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 7 | <i>INSET - No students in school</i> | Remote learning | Students return to school | Students in school |
| 8 | <i>INSET - No students in school</i> | Remote learning | Students return to school | Students in school |
| 9 | <i>INSET - No students in school</i> | Remote learning | Remote learning | Students return to school |
| 10 | <i>INSET - No students in school</i> | Remote learning | Remote learning | Students return to school |
| 11 | <i>INSET - No students in school</i> | Students return to school | Students in school | Students in school |
| 12 | <i>INSET - No students in school</i> | Personal Development Day | Students return to school | Students in school |
| 13 | <i>INSET - No students in school</i> | Students return to school | Students in school | Students in school |

Students will come to and leave school at the normal times from the day of their return and all lessons and breaks/lunch will run as usual.

Remote Learning

We will provide work in all subjects for students who are learning remotely. Students will be able to access this via the **Show My Homework** [platform](#). Students should log into the platform by 9am each morning and will find that a task has been set for them by the teachers of each lesson that they would normally have on that day, with the exception of Core PE. These tasks should be submitted online and teachers will check to ensure that this has been done.

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How will testing work?

Registration

Students will enter the Performance Hall where they will be supported by Haverstock staff to complete the registration form. This form links to their unique barcode which will be used to notify you of the test outcome.

The test procedure

Tests will be administered by a team of qualified technicians. Pupils from Year 11 upwards will be given the option to administer the tests themselves if they wish.

The test procedure involves taking a swab of secretions from the back of the throat (by the tonsils) and one nostril. This takes about 45 seconds in total. This swab is then placed in a solution for 10 seconds, before two drops are placed in the lateral flow test device and the test-time starts. A positive or negative result is displayed within 30 minutes. Whilst the swabbing process may be a little uncomfortable but it is not painful.

Please be assured that all pupils receiving a test will be fully supported throughout and following the test.

The test result

The result of the test will be documented at the end of the 30 minutes (negative, positive, or 'void' if the test process has not been completed successfully). Test results will be communicated by mobile phone text alert to the phone number provided on the consent form. If the test is 'void' your child will be offered another opportunity for a repeat test. Students will sit at a desk in the testing room whilst the test result is awaited and will be able to continue to learn whilst doing so.

If the test is negative it means that your child is very unlikely to have Covid-19 at the time of the test.

If the test is positive, this means your child has COVID-19. Your child and all household members must self-isolate immediately and follow the national guidelines, and your child will have to have a confirmatory Covid-19 PCR test (this is the free NHS test ordered through the national test system at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119).

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Booking and consent

We recognise it is a personal choice for you to make about whether your child should be tested so the consent of parents/guardians is required. For pupils aged 16 and over, they are able to provide their own consent.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please [complete this booking and consent form](#) as soon as possible and no later than 9pm on Monday 4th January.

We encourage you to take up this offer of testing for your child and hope that we can rely on your support in keeping all of our pupils, staff and our wider community as safe as possible at this time. I have included some 'Frequently Asked Questions' at the bottom of this letter.

Yours faithfully,



James Hadley
Headteacher

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Lateral flow testing at Haverstock School 'Frequently Asked Questions'

How do I book a Lateral Flow test for my child?

Please complete the consent [form](#). We will arrange a test and notify you of it.

Why should I book a test for my child?

Lateral Flow Testing is being rolled out by the Department for Health and Social Care to help find asymptomatic cases of COVID-19. Finding people who have the virus, but are displaying no symptoms, and ensuring they and their household self-isolate, is vital to help stop the spread of the virus.

By engaging as many staff and pupils at Haverstock School as possible in this testing programme, we can significantly reduce the spread of the virus within our school and the wider local community. By breaking these chains of transmission, we can help protect families and friends, particularly those who may be most vulnerable to the worst impacts of the virus. It will also help keep our school open.

How accurate is the Lateral Flow Test?

Lateral Flow Tests have been shown to be good at detecting most cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in people who have the virus but do not have any COVID-19 symptoms. This helps people who do not know they have COVID-19 from unintentionally spreading the disease to friends, family and others. About 70% of people who have COVID-19 but do not have symptoms will have the virus detected with the Lateral Flow Test.

If my child has already had the virus, should they still be tested?

Yes. Your child should still be tested. There is growing evidence that people who have had the virus don't necessarily have long-term immunity and may be able to get the virus again. This means that even if your child has already had the virus, taking part in this testing would still be of benefit to preventing spread of the COVID-19.

If my child is self-isolating, should they still come into school for a test?

No. They should not come to the testing. They should continue to self-isolate for the time they have been advised. The lateral flow testing sites are strictly for individuals not currently displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

How will the tests be conducted?

The tests will either be administered by a team of qualified technicians, or staff and pupils will be given the option to administer the tests themselves if they wish, under the supervision of a trained technician.

The test procedure involves taking a swab of secretions from the back of the throat (by the tonsils) and one nostril. This takes about 45 seconds in total. This swab is then placed in a solution for 10 seconds and mixed thoroughly, before two drops are placed in the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) and the test-time starts. A positive or negative result is displayed within 30 minutes. Whilst the swabbing process is uncomfortable, it is not painful.

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How will I receive my child's test result?

Test results will be sent by text to the mobile phone entered in the NHS/government portal when registering for the test.

The result will be negative (no COVID-19 found), positive (the child has COVID-19 infection), or 'void' (if the test process has not completed successfully). If the test is 'void' your child will be offered another opportunity for a repeat test.

If the test is negative it means that your child is very unlikely to have Covid-19 at the time of the test. They should continue to follow the public health recommendations as before around face masks, social distancing and thorough regular handwashing, as this test result relates to whether they may be infectious only on that day. If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19, they should book a test as usual via www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119 and self-isolate.

If the test is positive, this means your child has COVID-19. Your child and all household members and close contacts must self-isolate immediately and follow the national guidelines, and your child will have to have a confirmatory Covid-19 PCR test (this is the free NHS test ordered through the national test system at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119).

Where do students go on the day of testing?

We will send you an email and text message in the afternoon on the day before each test letting you know the time of the test appointment. We will also give your child an appointment reminder at the start of the day.

Do I tell the school if my child receives a positive test?

The consent process includes school getting information about positive results directly, so you don't need to inform us.

What if my child misses their appointment?

We will arrange for them to be tested at the next available opportunity.

Will close contacts of those who have tested positive need to isolate?

Close contacts can continue to come to school so long as consent is given for daily LFT testing at school during the 10-day period when they would previously have been required to self-isolate.

Will staff be tested too?

All who work on the site will be tested weekly.

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