

Thursday, 31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family are safe and well in this very difficult period and you managed to enjoy the holiday season despite the challenging situation and the increased level of restrictions.

Following yesterday's [announcement](#) by the Government regarding the delay to the reopening of schools, I am writing with revised arrangements for education in the first week of term. Although there are a few exceptions, Year 11 and 13 students across the country will not return to face-to-face teaching at school until Monday 11 January with students in other years scheduled to return on Monday 18 January. The majority of students will, therefore, access their education remotely.

### **Vulnerable Children and Critical Worker parents**

We know how important it is to provide a full face-to-face provision for vulnerable children and those whose parents are [critical workers](#). This now includes those who do not have access to suitable electronic devices or appropriate quiet space to be able to learn from home. If your child is eligible for this provision, please let us know as soon as possible via [office@haverstock.camden.sch.uk](mailto:office@haverstock.camden.sch.uk). This face-to-face provision will begin from the first day of term, Tuesday 5 January. To ensure that the school is as 'COVID secure' as possible, all staff and students will be offered a rapid COVID 19 'Lateral Flow' [test](#) on their first day *before* they mix with others and this test will be repeated within the first week. Parents in Years 7-11 need to give their consent via [this form](#). More details on testing is enclosed at the bottom of this letter.

### **Remote Learning - Years 11 & 13**

We will provide remote learning to all students in Years 11 and 13 from the first day of term. After one day of independent work (set on Show My Homework) for each lesson on Tuesday 5 January, your child's lessons will be delivered live on 'GMeet' according to their timetable from Wednesday 6 January. Further details of this provision will be sent out on Tuesday 5 January.

The current Government plan is for students in Years 11 & 13 to return to face to face teaching full time from Monday 11 January.

### **Remote Learning - Years 7-10 & 12**

Whilst schools are not expected to offer remote learning to students in other years at the start of term, we believe that it is essential to prevent loss of learning time. Students in Years 7-10 will, therefore, be set work on Show My Homework in all of their subjects from Wednesday 6 January onwards. All students are expected to complete this work and you will receive further information on Tuesday 5 January.

Year 12 students will continue to revise for their upcoming mock exams and will be guided by their teachers. Those in Year 12 who are studying for public BTEC exams later next

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month will receive live teaching 6<sup>th</sup> January and will receive a separate e mail on Monday with regards to these arrangements and a reminder of the timetable.

The current Government plan is for students in Years 7-10 and 12 to return to face to face teaching full time from Monday 18 January. Year 12 mocks will take place as planned from 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**A summary** of the educational provision in each year group is below:

	<b>Critical worker/ vulnerable children</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Year 13</b>
<b>Mon 4/1</b>	<b>INSET DAY - no students on site</b>							
<b>Tues 5/1</b>	Test on return. Face to face provision begins.					Independent remote learning	Independent revision	Independent remote learning
<b>Weds 6/1 onwards</b>	Face to face provision.	Independent remote learning	Independent remote learning	Independent remote learning	Independent remote learning	Live GMeet teaching in line with timetable	Independent revision / Live GMeet teaching for those studying for BTEC exams	Live GMeet teaching in line with timetable

### Free School Meals

Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive provision whilst students are not at school. We are still awaiting details of this from the Department of Education and will write to you with more details as soon as possible

Finally, please can I remind all parents that students who are displaying COVID 19 symptoms should not be sent to school and should self-isolate as per the Government [guidance](#). As the London area is in Tier 4, children should also follow the 'stay at home' [guidance](#) whilst these restrictions are in place.

I wish you the very best for the New Year and hope that we can all finally return to normal sooner rather than later.

Yours faithfully,



**James Hadley**  
Headteacher

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## **Details of rapid COVID 19 'Rapid Flow' [tests](#):**

For vulnerable children / those whose parents are [critical workers](#), the school is able to offer a rapid COVID 19 'Lateral Flow' test on arrival to school. We strongly encourage all parents to give their consent in order to keep your child, family and the whole school community safe.

### **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 administer the tests themselves, with support 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***, we will transfer them to our COVID secure medical room and make arrangements for them to return home. Although we'll speak to your child about their close contacts, their positive test result will not be shared with other students. Your child and all household members will have to self-isolate and follow the national guidelines. Your child will have to have a confirmatory COVID-19 PCR test which can be booked by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or 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.

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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](http://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 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](http://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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