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Head Teacher: Mr J Brooks B Ed (Hons) NPQH



Where we aspire, nurture, personalise,
engage and promote success

26th February 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am very much looking forward to seeing all staff and students back onto our school sites in the coming weeks. I want to update you on our approach to a safe reopening for all students on 8th March 2021.

As you will be aware, the government requires us to offer 3 lateral flow COVID 19 tests to all returning students. The first test must be offered prior to entry to a lesson, which makes it imperative that we know the number of students who will want a test on March 8th. **Therefore it is imperative that we receive completed consent forms (see attached) by Wednesday 3rd March.** This will help with our planning for whole school testing on 8th March, in order to meet the timing requirements of the guidance.

Testing is voluntary but encouraged and we would encourage all parents / carers to discuss the testing arrangements with their son or daughter. Further information on testing is given below. By testing, we aim to reduce the asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 in the school community.

Following this period of on-site testing for consenting parents/students. Students will then be supplied with home test kits to self-test twice a week. If you would struggle with this, we can continue to carry out the tests in school. The results, whether positive or negative, must be reported to the Department of Health at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result and to school to assist Test and Trace activity and to monitor the spread of the virus throughout the UK. Full instructions will be provided before you receive your home testing kit.

More information about testing

Those taking the test will be supervised by our trained staff. The lateral flow devices are easy to use to swab the inside of your nose and throat. For those who are unable to self-swab, assistance will be available at our testing site in Eastgate Lodge. Positive results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the student and parents / carers, who will be contacted immediately.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device at school, they will need to return home to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. If a student tests



positive on a home test, they must undertake a PCR test to confirm the infection which is booked through the NHS.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason. Pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their lessons as normal. Students/ parents will not be contacted if the test is negative.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

What if I / my child develops symptoms?

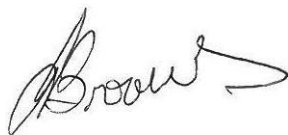
This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Important additional measures on site

In line with the new guidance, all staff and students are asked to wear face coverings in classrooms, as well as communal areas, to further ensure the safety of the school community, unless you have an exemption.

Thank you for helping us keep the entire Maplewell Hall School safe. The Health and Safety and well-being of our whole school community are paramount in all of our decision making and we are always happy to support and advise. If you have any questions, contact us at admin@maplewell.leics.sch.uk

Kind regards



Jason Brooks
Head Teacher