

Hele's School

A great place to learn. A great place to grow.



Friday, 9 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

September Return Arrangements

Last week, I wrote in anticipation of the impending Government announcement about lifting stage 4 restrictions and what that would likely mean for schools from September, including the return to school routine in the new academic year.

The full guidance to schools, which comes into effect **from 16 August**, can be read [here](#) and the parent and carer information from the DfE can be read [here](#).

In summary:

- All Secondary age children aged 11-18 are to be offered two Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) upon return from the summer holidays – both of these must be done on site at School in an asymptomatic testing facility and return a negative result, with the *first LFT having to be completed before the child's first day back at school*.
- Students will have a second LFT on site, 3 -5 days after their first test, and they will be directed to leave lessons on a rota basis to allow this to happen, with minimum impact on learning.
- Upon completion of the second test, there will no further on-site testing required and home testing will continue to be encouraged twice a week for all staff and students. This guidance will be reviewed by the government at the end of September, and next steps confirmed thereafter.
- Face coverings for adults and children will no longer be recommended.
- There will be no requirement for social distancing.
- Good ventilation and hand hygiene remain important.
- Contact tracing within schools, unless contacted by NHS Test and Trace to help in the event of an outbreak of Covid, will cease.
- There will no requirement for children (or for adults who have been double vaccinated) to self-isolate if they have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive Covid case.

The expectation around onsite Lateral Flow Testing is the same requirement as when schools fully reopened in March after Lockdown; we are very familiar with the routines and expectations around this and can rapidly mobilise a testing facility in the Sports Hall, supported by a skilled and experienced testing team of staff and volunteers.

The government guidance allows schools to stagger the return dates of year groups in September to enable this testing to happen, aiming for all children to be back in school having had one test by Friday, 10 September. Our plan at Hele's is to have everyone tested at least once and back into the routine of lessons in school by Thursday, 9 September.

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Our confirmed model for return in September, as agreed this week with Governors, is shown below:

| September | Activity | |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Monday 6 th | Staff training day | Test 1 by appointment in the Sports Hall, then leave the school site immediately afterwards for: Year 7 Invited Mentors Year 12 |
| Tuesday 7 th | Induction Day 1 for Year 7 and Year 12 | Testing by appointment in the Sports Hall, then leave the school site immediately afterwards for: Year 10 Year 11 Year 13 |
| Wednesday 8 th | Induction Day 2 for Year 7 and Year 12 | Testing by appointment in the Sports Hall, then leave the school site immediately afterwards for: Year 8 Year 9 |
| Thursday 9 th | All year groups on site and lessons begin as normal | Test 2 in the Sports Hall. Leave lesson to attend appointment then return to class immediately afterwards: Year 7 Invited Mentors Year 12 |
| Friday 10 th | Normal lessons for all years | Test 2 in the Sports Hall. Leave lesson to attend appointment then return to class immediately afterwards: Year 10 Year 11 Year 13 |
| Monday 13 th | Normal lessons for all | Test 2 in the Sports Hall. Leave lesson to attend appointment then return to class immediately afterwards: Year 8 Year 9 |

For clarity, the timeline for testing and return by year group is as below:

| Year Group | First test date – by appointment in the Sports Hall, then leave the school site immediately afterwards | First day back at school for learning in full uniform and ready for the normal school day, 8.40am – 3pm | Second test date – students leave lessons for their appointment then return to the classroom (subject to LFT result) |
|------------|--|---|--|
| Year 7 | Monday 6 th | Tuesday 7 th | Thursday 9 th |
| Year 8 | Wednesday 8 th | Thursday 9 th | Monday 13 th |
| Year 9 | Wednesday 8 th | Thursday 9 th | Monday 13 th |
| Year 10 | Tuesday 7 th Mentors: Monday 6 th | Thursday 9 th Mentors: Tuesday 7 th | Friday 10 th Mentors: Thursday 9 th |
| Year 11 | Tuesday 7 th | Thursday 9 th | Friday 10 th |
| Year 12 | Monday 6 th | Tuesday 7 th | Thursday 9 th |
| Year 13 | Tuesday 7 th | Thursday 9 th | Friday 10 th |

If you are able to volunteer time to support with Lateral Flow Testing on any of the dates noted above, please contact Mrs Crawford, Deputy Principal, at crawfords@heles.plymouth.sch.uk - all training will be provided and we would value having you on the testing team.

Kindest regards,

Justine Mason

Justine Mason
Principal