

1st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the most recent announcements from Government, I am writing to update you with revisions to our previous letter of 18th December 2020. **Please read all of the information below very carefully.**

Plans for our January return have in essence been delayed by a week and, we believe, will be reviewed again before 18th January.

This will mean that currently the following will be in place:

- **4th and 5th January the school site is closed to pupils** to allow for pre scheduled staff training as well as additional mass lateral flow testing training.
- The school site will be open from **Wednesday 6th January for children of critical workers, those that have an EHCP and children classed as vulnerable only.**

Places for this provision will need to be booked in advance using Postbox@etonecollege.co.uk providing clear reasoning, the name of your child, tutor group and relevant evidence attached. The deadline for this is Monday 4th January (3.00 pm).

- **All students from Years 7-13 will be offered a remote learning package from 6th January following students' normal timetables.**

Our remote learning package will be a mixture of activities, including some online lessons, set tasks and independent activities. Pupils should log on **each morning by 8.45 am** to access the links for the online lessons and the work set for that day. Attendance to online lessons is compulsory and it is very important that your child logs in on time for each lesson. They can use a computer, tablet or smartphone to access the content via Microsoft Teams, their school email account or other subject specific software (details will be provided). All work should be completed and brought back to school on return. There are guides for parents/carers and pupils regarding remote education available on our website.

Online lessons will run for a minimum of 30 minutes to allow for the teacher to deliver the appropriate skills and content and the pupils to complete set tasks as well as prepare for their follow on lessons/activities.

Any family who does not have access to a device should notify school via Postbox@etonecollege.co.uk as soon as possible so that alternative provision can be made.

- The school site will be open on **Monday 11th January for Years 11 and 13 who will resume normal lessons/mock examinations.**
- The school site will be open on **Monday 18th January for Years 7-10 and Year 12 for normal lessons to resume.**

- **All external BTEC exams for pupils will take place as planned and previously published.**
A reminder text will be sent to those pupils who have external examinations.
- **Year 11 and 13 mock exams will be postponed until week commencing Monday 11th January. A revised exam timetable will be issued early next week. All pupils should use this additional gained time to complete further revision.**
- If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, a food parcel will again be available for collection from the main school reception. Parents were asked to respond to the text by 1st January. If you have not done so, please email Postbox@etonecollege.co.uk to state whether you will require a food parcel as soon as possible and no later than 9.00am on Monday 4th January so that food can be ordered in time.
- We are busy planning to deliver mass testing on-site in line with all published Government guidance. We would, however, be pleased to hear from any parents/carers who may be interested in volunteering their support to assist with this testing programme, particularly if they have any public health experience. Please email Postbox@etonecollege.co.uk.

We will confirm arrangements with you for mass-testing once we have finalised our plans. I have included information about mass-testing from the Government. **Parental consent is required for mass-testing of pupils in Years 7 – 11. Please complete and return the form as soon as possible if you give consent for your child to be tested.** An electronic version of the consent form will be sent to you via a text link for your convenience. This Government issued form replaces any previous form that you may have already completed.

Finally, to help reduce COVID-19 transmissions and to make our communities as safe as possible we urge our families to follow the national Tier 4 guidelines and to seek a test should symptoms develop. If all families and households follow the guidance during the next few weeks, it will not only allow us to keep our school safe and open but will also help us protect the wider community.

I do hope that you all had a relaxing time over Christmas and New Year. We all, I am sure, look forward with optimism to the “light at the end of the tunnel”, a much, brighter 2021 and a return to normality.

If there are any changes to the above information, we will of course update you as soon as we can.

Many thanks, as always, for all of your continued patience and support as we navigate our way through these challenging times.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Smith
Headteacher

1st January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and pupils

We are working to keep Etone College as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and pupils to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep Etone College open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We will be testing all staff and pupils who want to participate from week commencing 4 January 2021.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the electronic consent form that you will receive by text (one per pupil/student) as soon as possible.

Those taking the test will be supervised by staff who have undergone training in line with Government guidance. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

Registration and Consent

To process the test, we will register all participating pupils.

We will require parents and carers who are consenting to complete an electronic consent form.

You will receive a link to the electronic consent form by text shortly for completion.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). We may be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home if they have arrived in school or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

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 their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call school on 02476 757300 or email Postbox@etonecollege.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

I Smith

HOW TO GET YOUR COVID-19 TEST

1 YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2 WHEN YOU ARRIVE, SOMEONE WILL BE THERE IF YOU NEED HELP

3 YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

4 TO START YOU WILL BE ASKED TO OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDELY AND SAY 'AMHHH' SO A SWAB CAN BE GENTLY RUBBED ON THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT

5 AFTER 10 SECONDS, YOUR TESTING HELPER WILL CAREFULLY REMOVE THE SWAB AND GENTLY PLACE IT UP ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS

6 THE SWAB WILL THEN BE TURNED GENTLY 5 TIMES, THIS TAKES ABOUT 10-15 SECONDS

7 AFTER THIS, YOUR SWAB WILL BE REMOVED GENTLY AND PLACED IN A VIAL FOR TESTING

8 YOU CAN ASK YOUR TESTING HELPER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE BUT THAT'S IT, YOU'RE ALL DONE AND YOUR TEST IS COMPLETE

9 YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT