

Aspiration
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Roding Valley
HIGH SCHOOL

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you would have heard yesterday, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson announced a full return to school from the 8th March. You can read some of the government guidance that is available to us [here](#).

Part of this reopening plan is the reliance on regular mass testing for all students and staff in secondary schools. We are being asked to offer pupils asymptomatic testing, using lateral flow tests on the school site from 8th March. The testing and return of pupils will be phased during the first week to manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time. Once the students have received their first negative test result, they will then return to on-site lessons.

We are currently looking into the capacity for the mass testing on-site and how this would operate for us and other Essex schools.

Thank you to those parents who have already volunteered to support us and we will be in touch. Please do contact me, if you know anyone willing to help. It requires a lot of support to test 1400 students plus 120 staff twice a week. Hopefully, this is only for a short period before reverting to home testing as suggested in the government guidance.

We are attending a number of government webinars in the next few days so will update you when we have finalised our plans. We will prioritise Years 11 and 13 to get them back into face to face lessons first. We will share further details of the return for all students as soon as possible.

We will revert to our safety plan from the autumn term, including face coverings in communal areas, bubbles, zones, additional classroom ventilation and staggered breaks, start and finish times, but as announced by the Prime Minister yesterday, there is an increased expectation around the wearing of face coverings in the classrooms for a limited period of time.

All students will receive an invitation to a form group meeting on Tuesday 2nd March at 3 pm. This will be an opportunity for their academic mentor/form tutor to allay any fears students may have about their return to school full time and remind them of the safety measures and protocols we have in place. As always, they will receive the link for the meeting via their school Gmail account. Please ensure your child looks out for their invitation and attends this important meeting.

I will obviously update you more as plans are made clearer and Essex establishes its position on testing.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and we look forward to welcoming the students back to face to face teaching.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jenner
Headteacher

