

Dear Parents/Carers,

19<sup>th</sup> August 2021

I hope you and your family are enjoying the summer holiday.

You may be aware that the government have recommended that schools test all students on site prior to their return in September and have given schools permission to stagger the return of the students for up to a further week in order to facilitate this. However, I am anxious to welcome all the students back to school on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, as planned, and I am reluctant to do anything that will cause the students to miss any further school.

Given that most families have been confidently using lateral flow tests to test their children at home twice a week for many months, I believe that it's unnecessary to insist that all students come in to school to have a test done here, rather than at home. Therefore, I would like to ask that all parents who are happy and confident to do a lateral flow test at home before their child returns to school, to do so. If you do not have a lateral flow testing kit at home you can pick up a kit, free of charge, from most pharmacies local to you, or from reception here at school any morning (9am – 12noon) next week. This link shows where tests can be collected:

<https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

You can also have a reminder, if required, on how to do the tests via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help#videos-how-to-do-a-rapid-test-at-home>

However, we do understand that some families may prefer the security of having a test done at school. For this reason, we will be holding a drop-in testing service (for our students only) from 9.30am until 2.30pm on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of August and Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, for those who would prefer to not do the first test of this academic year at home. This will be situated within our sports hall so please arrive via the main entrance off of Deal Road and follow the signage.

If you would like to have a test done at school on either of these two days, please complete the consent form (even if you have done one before please), by following this link:

Yr 7-11: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScn4w8AnvfkLrx7Ks0Fpplp8DWM-lz5uKI4MPbtLp3Ss6C5Yg/viewform>

Yr 12 13:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0Bk62YftwHaeP3Z5Znz2xmVkjCBibXJWYUWDkpxBUGKJpEQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0Bk62YftwHaeP3Z5Znz2xmVkjCBibXJWYUWDkpxBUGKJpEQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

If you have any questions about how your data is used, when either testing at home or at school, the following link should be helpful:

[Data Protection Covid testing FAQs for parents & staff](#)

To the parents of students who will be returning into Year 12 or 13, you may have seen on the news that the government have now set a target of offering all 16 and 17 year olds the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccination by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. I would like to encourage all our sixth form students to take up this offer (if they have not already done so) and have the vaccine to help build up our

nation's resilience to this virus. Of course, we understand that the vaccine does not full protect people from contracting covid, but it makes it less likely, and usually means the symptoms will be less severe. Further information can be found here: [JCVI issues updated advice on COVID-19 vaccination of young people aged 16 to 17 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-updated-advice-on-covid-19-vaccination-of-young-people-aged-16-to-17)

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy to the rest of the summer break, and we very much look forward to welcoming the students back soon.

Best wishes,  
Tracey.