



An All-through Co-operative School
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Dear Families

We are all very much looking forward to welcoming students back on the school site in a phased return from the 8th March. This will be the first, in a series of letters informing parents and carers of some of the arrangements in place for the safe return of all students to school from the week commencing March 8th.

This letter will focus on some key changes in the government guidance including: consent for testing (for Covid-19 virus), the testing process and how this impacts your child's return to school. Over the next week, the school staff will be finalising the details of the return process. Future letters will include more detailed information on return dates of student groups, COVID-19 precautions, teaching and learning approaches and pastoral support.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Operational Guidance for Schools

One of the key changes in the guidance is the **wearing of face masks in school at all times**. Secondary age students and all staff will need to wear face coverings in classrooms, as well as in and around the school site. If there is a medical reason a face mask can't be worn (e.g. medical exemption for severe asthma), then a shield which does not touch the face should be worn. This is now a legal requirement on school sites and students must have spare facemasks with them at all times.

Another key change in the guidance is the **testing and phased return of students to school**. The guidance states:

“Secondary schools should offer pupils testing at an on-site AST (Asymptomatic Test Site) from 8th March. Testing and return of pupils can be phased during the first week to manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time. Schools have the flexibility to consider how best to deliver testing on a phased basis from 8th March, depending on the schools' circumstances and local arrangements. Pupils not undergoing testing should attend school in line with the phased return arrangements. Schools will have discretion on how to test students over the week, as they return to the classroom. Testing is voluntary.”

Preston Manor's phased return and testing

The school is fully committed to do everything in its power to keep students, staff and families safe. I would encourage all parents to give consent for their child to be tested, so we can minimise the risk of transmission on the school site. The students will be shown how to administer the test themselves and will be supported by trained members of staff. Mr Brougham has sent all parents a letter dated 23rd February explaining the testing and consent process, as well as this link to the consent form: [Preston Manor Lateral Flow Testing Consent Form](#). We need each of you to *complete and submit the form as soon as possible* to enable us to finalise our return dates for each year group.

Preston Manor has an unusually high number of students on roll, which will mean we will have to have a staggered start for different year groups at different times throughout the week. In order

to get through our sixth form testing as well, next week we will probably need to ask our sixth form students to attend an appointment for a covid test on our school site and then return home immediately after the result. Sixth form students will receive a further email regarding details and instructions. Therefore, it is imperative that everyone has completed and submitted their individual form by **Friday 26th February** even if you are refusing consent. At the end of school on Friday 26th February, I will be collating all the consent forms in order to identify the most effective way of having students return to school.

Finally....

As I mentioned at the start, all the staff are delighted to hear that students will start to return to Preston Manor site from the 8th March and look forward to building on the learning completed remotely.

Please stay safe at home for now and stay well.

Yours sincerely



Beth Kobel
Headteacher