



25 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will now know, we are in a position to reopen school in the week commencing 8 March 2021. We are delighted that we will be able to welcome all students back to school and look forward to having everyone back in their classrooms. As I am sure you will appreciate, there is a lot of information to share with you. Please take the time to read this letter carefully and should you have any additional questions please contact the Head of Year for your child.

As part of the reopening of school to all students, we will be undertaking Covid-19 testing. The tests used are 'lateral flow devices' (LFD) which return a result within 30 minutes. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

Trained staff and volunteers will supervise those taking the test in school. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with parents / carers using the mobile phone number provided on the consent form. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. There will also be a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

We have already started testing with staff and with students who have been attending school during lockdown. If your child has been attending school they will not need to take part in the return to school testing programme.

Students returning to school will be offered a test 3 times in school, with a gap of between 3 and 5 days between each test. We will be offering the first test to students as follows:

Date	Year Group	Time
Monday 8 March	Y7	From 8.00am to 10.00am
Monday 8 March	Y10	From 10.00am to 12.00pm
Monday 8 March	Y11	From 12.30pm to 3.30pm
Tuesday 9 March	Y8	From 10.00am to 1.00pm
Tuesday 9 March	Y9	From 1.00pm to 3.30pm

Please note the following:

- Our Testing Centre is in the Table Tennis Centre; students should report straight there on arrival. They should not enter the main school building.
- Students should come to school for their test during the time slot allocated for their year group.
- Once they have completed their test they will be able to go home.
- Students should bring their mobile phone with them and should wear a face covering.
- Students do not need to wear school uniform.
- If you would like to bring your child for the test in your car, you will be able to wait for them in the car park.

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On Monday 8 March and Tuesday 9 March, we will adapt teaching to support the testing arrangements as shown in the table below. **On Wednesday 10 March, all students should return to school as normal.**

	<b>Monday 8 March</b>	<b>Tuesday 9 March</b>	<b>Wednesday 10 March</b>
<b>Y7, Y10, Y11</b>	Task based lessons on Google Classroom	Return to school and normal lessons	<b><u>All students return to school as normal</u></b>
<b>Y8, Y9</b>	Live Lessons on Google Classroom	Task based lessons on Google Classroom	
<b>Critical Worker / Vulnerable students</b>	Continue to attend school as they have been doing throughout lockdown		

We will complete the second and third tests in school with students collected during the school day to take the test. The dates for these tests are:

	<b>Test 2</b>	<b>Test 3</b>
<b>Y7, Y10, Y11</b>	Thursday 11 March	Monday 15 March
<b>Y8 Y9</b>	Friday 12 March	Tuesday 16 March

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately. We will contact you to ask you to collect your child from school. They will need to self-isolate in line with the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infections (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>).

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school as normal.

Following these initial 3 tests offered by the school, the Department for Education's proposal is that further testing will take place at home. We understand that home testing kits will be provided, but this is still under discussion with Public Health England. As soon as we have more information, we will share it with you.

It is important to remember that this asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines. Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus. If any student displays symptoms in school, we will contact you so that they can be collected and a test organised.



As was the case prior to lockdown, in the event of any positive test results, we will continue to identify close contacts who need to isolate and will inform you. Please continue to inform us if your child tests positive for coronavirus.

**Testing is voluntary but is strongly recommended. I would like to thank those of you who have already completed the consent form for testing. If you would like your child to be included in the testing programme, please complete the consent form by Wednesday 3 March. The form can be found here: <http://forms.gle/JfFhoUzK6r1E3sSd66> We will not offer a test to any student who has not had consent given by their parent / carer.**

As well as the testing programme, we are making all the other necessary arrangements for your children to return to school. This will include a full risk assessment, which will be shared with you. Essentially, school will be organised in the same way as it was from September to December. I will write to you again next week with further information. We will also write to Y11 families separately to update you about GCSE grade arrangements for this year. If you have any urgent questions in the meantime please contact your child's Head of Year or email [hello@gra.hlt.academy](mailto:hello@gra.hlt.academy).

There is a useful guide here published by the Department for Education which may answer some of your questions: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our students back to school. We will all work together to ensure a smooth return and rest assured, we will support you and your children through this period.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Emma Robins'.

**Emma Robins**

Principal | Graham School