

Oakbank School



2nd January 2021

Return to School and NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Return to School

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope that you have managed to have the best Christmas holiday possible.

Following the latest guidance from the Department of Education, and as a consequence to increased levels of Covid-19, please be aware of revised dates for the start of term.

- Monday January 4th 2021: INSET day (there will be no online learning provision during INSET)
- Tuesday January 5th 2021: INSET day (there will be no online learning provision during INSET)
- Wednesday January 6th – Friday January 8th: All students will have online learning set using Teams. These lessons will follow the regular school timetable. **Please use Classcharts and MS Teams for all instructions and resources.**
- Monday January 11th – Friday January 15th: Y11 lessons in school, Y7-10 continue with online learning
- Monday 18th onwards: All students in school

I have also put this in table form to try to make it easier to follow all of this information:

	Y11	Y10	Y9	Y8	Y7
Monday 4 th & Tuesday 5 th	INSET – No Online Learning				
Wed 6 th to Friday 8 th	Online Line Learning				
Monday 11 th to Friday 15 th	In School	Online Learning			
Monday 18 th onward	In School				

Key Worker and Vulnerable Provision

As mentioned in my letter before Christmas, we will be running provision for key worker and vulnerable students. If you are a key worker and require this support, please let me know so that we can plan accordingly. You can do this by emailing rbertrand@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk

Free School Meals

If your child/children are entitled to Free School Meals, we will be able to provide a weekly food parcel for the next 2 weeks via our catering provider. If you haven't already requested your parcels please can you email sbrightwell@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk by 8am, Monday 4th January. You will be contacted on Monday 4th with full details on when/how you can collect them (if you are unable to collect please let Mrs Brightwell know in your email)

Covid-19 Testing

We are working to keep Oakbank 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 students 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 our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We will be testing all staff during the week commencing 4th January 2021. Student tests will follow with Y11 students who wish to participate testing during the week of 11th January and other students on their return in the following week (18th January). Further information detailing the scheduling of student tests will follow next week.

I also enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, we will be asking you to fill a consent form in due course. These are not yet available but as soon as they are we will send them out to you and ask you to return them to the school office.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. 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.

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.

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 will provide advice as to how best to access tests should a PCR test be required

During the time 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 Oakbank 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 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) 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.

Paid Volunteers

In order to run the testing process effectively we are looking for paid volunteers who may be able to help with the process. All volunteers will be fully trained and provided with all the support required to administer the tests. If you are interested in volunteering please let me know on rbertrand@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk

Further Information

I have attached a leaflet with further information about testing. If you have any further questions or concerns please contact us and we will do all we can to support you and your children in whatever way we can.

Yours faithfully,

Robin Bertrand