

1 March 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

## RE: Wider Reopening of Driffield School and Sixth Form for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13

We are delighted to be able to welcome our students back next week; we are now in a position to provide further details on our plans, clarifying how we intend to safely reopen the school as quickly as possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has provided consent for their child to have a lateral flow test. We are hopeful that by using these tests we will help identify asymptomatic cases, reducing the spread of the virus in school (as well as in our families and communities).

We have had a very high rate of consent and I am sure you will therefore appreciate our need to slightly stagger the start date for some year groups, in order to allow the testing to take place prior to the full return of students. To reduce any delay in face-to-face teaching as far as possible, we are inviting students in Years 10 to 13 to have their first lateral flow test later this week:

- Years 13 and 11 will be invited in on Thursday 4 March for a lateral flow test only
- Years 12 and 10 will be invited in on Friday 5 March for a lateral flow test only

This will mean that **all** students in **Years 10 to 13** can return to school as normal on Monday 8 March at their normal time (*see timings of the school day below*).

*Please note that, as before, students should not return to school if they are displaying any symptoms of the coronavirus (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or loss/change to their sense of smell or taste).*

### Lateral Flow Test Arrangements

If you have provided consent for your child to have a lateral flow test, details of the appointment and how to register the test can be found on the attached document. If you haven't had the opportunity to provide consent and would like to do so, details can be found on the letter attached.

Students should arrive via the main entrance a few minutes before their allotted appointment time and make their way to the old sports centre, following the clear on-site signage. If you are bringing your child to school for the test, please park in the visitor car park and remain in your car whilst your child attends the old sports centre. If you have any difficulties with transport for the allotted time, please contact the school on 01377 253631 or at [office@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:office@driffieldschool.org.uk). We would be grateful if you could ensure your child does not arrive earlier than their allotted time (as this could impact on our ability to ensure safe social distancing). Before they enter the old sports centre, they must be wearing a face covering.

On arrival to the test centre, students will be welcomed by a member of staff they know and will be directed to the registration table. They will receive clear instructions on how to administer the test. The testing process takes approximately 5 minutes; once this is complete, your child will be able to leave immediately (through the clearly-marked exit). Test results take about 30 minutes and students will be informed of their result via the email or mobile number (used to register their test on the NHS website).

If your child receives a negative test result, they will be able to return to school for face-to-face teaching at their usual time on Monday 8 March. Appointment dates and times for their second and third lateral flow tests will be given directly to students once they are back in school.

If your child receives a positive test result, they will need to self-isolate for ten days (along with other members of the household). During this time, they will be able to access their learning through Microsoft Teams if they feel well enough.

We have been asked to stress that lateral flow tests are not sensitive enough to identify ALL individuals carrying the virus; therefore, a negative result is not a guarantee that someone is not infected. It is important therefore that we do not change our Covid-safe behaviours (i.e. social distancing, the wearing of face coverings and hand hygiene).

### **Online learning**

We will continue to provide online learning whilst testing is taking place; however, a small number of lessons may be 'on-demand' style rather than 'live' during the times students attend the school site for testing. This means that students will be able to complete the work at a time convenient for them.

### **Critical Worker/Vulnerable Child Provision**

Students currently attending one of the pods in school should continue to do so as normal and, as the rest of their year group return to school, students in the pods will move into their usual class groups. From the 8 March, all students (including those in the pods) are expected to be in full school uniform. Any changes to the rooming or pod arrangement required on 8 March will be shared with students in advance.

### **Arrangements for the return to school for face-to-face teaching**

The week beginning 8 March is week A and students should arrive at school in full school uniform with any equipment, including their student planner, that they will need for week A lessons.

- Students in Years 10 - 13 should return to school on Monday 8 March at their usual time and go straight to their normal timetabled period 1 lesson. Some students may still require a test during period 1 on 8 March; separate arrangements will be made for this.

Please note, the timings for the school day remain the same as the autumn term (start and finish times are indicated below).

<b>Y7</b>	<b>Y8</b>	<b>Y9</b>	<b>Y10</b>	<b>Y11</b>	<b>Y12</b>	<b>Y13</b>
Arrive at 08:40	Arrive at 08:45	Arrive at 09:00	Arrive at 08:55	Arrive at 08:50	Arrive at 09:00	Arrive at 08:55
<i>Note: Students arriving by bus should go straight to their classroom at 08:40</i>						
Leave at 15:20	Leave at 15:22	Leave at 15:25	Leave at 15:27	Leave at 15:30	Leave at 15:25	Leave at 15:30

## **Covid safety measures**

The Covid safety measures established during the autumn term remain in place and students will be reminded of all expectations and safety measures through a briefing video, delivered at the start of their first lesson back. They can also refer to information in their student planner.

## **Face coverings**

All students are asked to bring **two** reusable or disposable face coverings with them to school each day. Advice and guidance on the use and storage of the face coverings will be provided in the briefing video. If there is a reason why your child is not able to wear a face covering, please contact your child's Head of Year as soon as possible.

## **Mock Exams and assessment**

The planned formal mock exams will not be taking place for Year 13. Ongoing assessment will take place for Years 11 and 13 to enable students to show teachers what they have learned and what they can do. We will be writing to all Year 11 and 13 students and parents in due course with further details.

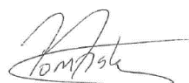
We hope this helps answer the questions you may have about your child's return to school. We appreciate this is an anxious time for everyone, so please do contact [office@driffieldschool.org.uk](mailto:office@driffieldschool.org.uk) if you have any questions.

Your support and encouragement over the last 8 weeks has been really appreciated by all the staff. We would again like to thank you for your patience as we manage this unfamiliar role of Covid testing over the coming days.

Yours faithfully



Mrs D Dalton  
Deputy Headteacher



Mr T Fisher  
Assistant Headteacher