

Dear Parent / Carer

We are delighted that we will shortly be welcoming NSB students back to school and I am writing to outline to you the plan for their return.

Secondary Schools in England, due to the complexities of mass testing, can bring students back over the course of two weeks beginning Monday, March 8th and, in addition, start the COVID-19 testing of students before March 8th if required.

Students who have parental consent (or own consent if a Sixth Former) for COVID-19 testing are required by the government to record an initial negative Lateral Flow Device Test (LFD Test) before they return to the classroom. Following an initial test, students will then be tested twice more when they are back in school with a 3–5 day interval between tests, before switching to twice weekly home testing.

Most parents / carers have now indicated whether they consent or not to their child being tested. If you have not completed the consent form on AIM please do so as soon as possible and by Tuesday, March 2nd at the latest. The form needs to be completed whether you wish to give consent or withdraw consent for your child to be tested. Parents / carers of students who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days should still indicate consent or withdrawal of consent, however they should also note the latest guidance for children in this category towards the end of this letter.

The school is committed to bringing students back as quickly as possible and therefore will be taking advantage of the option to test in the week before students are permitted to return to class. Due to the large numbers of students who will need to be tested, the school site will be given over almost solely to the initial testing before all students return to school for face-to-face lessons.

Parents / carers of each student who have agreed consent for testing (other than those who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days) will be emailed a personalised timetable by Wednesday, March 3rd which will indicate the exact time and details of their child's first LFD test and the days when they will receive their subsequent two LFD tests in school - however the overall schedule for the initial tests will be as follows:

**Thursday, March 4th** - First Test for Year 11 / Year 13 / Year 7 East Wing - Forms H, I, J, K - remote learning for all students other than key worker and vulnerable students who may continue to attend school

**Friday, March 5th** - First Test for Year 10 / Year 12 - remote learning for all students other than key worker and vulnerable students who may continue to attend school

**Monday, March 8th** - First Test for Year 8 / Year 9 / Year 7 West Wing - Forms P, Q, R, S - remote learning for all students other than key worker and vulnerable students who may continue to attend school

**Tuesday, March 9th** - All students return to school as normal (normal school day timings) – second tests for students will begin on this day

Please note that where students do not have parental consent (or own consent if a Sixth Former) for testing they should return to school on Tuesday, March 9th.

As indicated above, remote learning will be in operation throughout the three days of initial testing, however when year groups are being tested from March 4th - 8th the remote lessons for that year group will be modified so that the students who are being tested (which will be most of the year group) do not fall behind with their learning. Students who are being tested will not be required to catch this work up.

**Testing and return to school - General information**

Parents should note that the testing is asymptomatic testing only. Any student who has coronavirus symptoms must not attend school for a test and must follow the government self-isolation directives.

When students come into school for their initial test they are not required to be in school uniform.

Students (unless exempt) will be expected to wear a face covering in the Sports Hall at all times, other than when they are undertaking the test itself.

To minimise contacts in and out of school, students should return home immediately after they have taken the test and should then stay home until the result of the test has been sent to parents / carers.

Students should arrive on time (not early or late) for their test which will take place in the Sports Hall. Students should walk down to the Sports Hall through the Bus Bay Gate opposite the Old Northamptonians Sports Club and walk down the side of the Concourse to the Sports Hall, rather than entering through the school buildings. Students will be asked to leave the school site via the Access Road which leads out to the front of the school. Students must maintain social distancing from other students as they make their way down to the Sports Hall and when they leave the school premises. Cycle racks will be accessible where needed. Staff will be on hand to guide students.

The testing process is relatively quick – in the region of five to ten minutes once registration has been completed.

**Negative** results of the initial and subsequent tests will be sent to parents / carers by text through the primary / carer mobile telephone number as soon as they have been validated and uploaded (this may come through up to several hours after the test has been taken). If a **positive** test result is recorded however, the school will immediately seek to alert parents / carers by phone (normally 30 minutes after the test has been taken).

Wherever possible, students should travel to and from school for their initial test by walking, cycling or by being driven by a family member. This is to ensure that students are in minimal contact with members of the public whilst awaiting the result of their test. If a student has no option but to take public transport, then please alert Mr Kneeshaw at the school [mkneeshaw@nsb.northants.sch.uk](mailto:mkneeshaw@nsb.northants.sch.uk) before the testing day. Students who are due to travel home by public transport will be asked to wait in a socially distanced area at the school until the result of the test is known. If the test is negative, the student will be permitted to travel home by public transport as planned, if the test is positive, a discussion will take place with parents / carers over the safest method of returning the student home. Parents / carers will not be permitted on the school site in person or to park a car. Parents / carers may park at the Old Northamptonians Sports Club across from the school if space is available.

Children who are confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable by their clinician should continue with their remote learning and not attend school for a test or for face-to-face learning.

In consideration of the imminent return to school, parents and carers are reminded that the following rules must be adhered to if a student or member of their household has coronavirus symptoms:

Students must not come into the school if:

- they or a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works#part-1-people-who-develop-symptoms-of-coronavirus>
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they or a member of their household has had a positive test

Students must immediately cease to attend school and self-isolate for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their (or a member of their household's) symptoms
- the test date if they (or a member of their household) did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

A new updated school risk assessment (following the recently published DfE updated national Covid-19 operational guidance for schools) will be posted on the school website prior to the return to school on Tuesday, March 9th. This risk assessment will indicate a small number of changes because of this new national guidance for schools. All other COVID-19 protection measures will be as per the operation of the school prior to this current lockdown period.

The main changes are as follows:

1) In line with government expectations students (other than those who are exempt) will be expected to wear face coverings in all classrooms where social distancing of 2m cannot be maintained (this will be almost all classes). This rule will not apply to practical PE lessons. This measure will be reviewed by the government at Easter.

2) Face visors or shields should not be worn as an alternative to face coverings.

There will be no after school extra-curricular activities during the week beginning March 8th. An update on after school extra-curricular activities will be sent out towards the end of that week.

### **If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days**

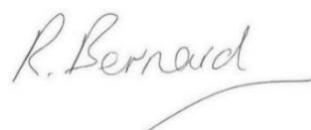
The DfE are now recommending that children and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not undertake LFD testing at school or through home testing until the 90 day period is complete, unless they develop new symptoms. If the child or adult concerned develops new symptoms they should isolate and take a PCR test in line with national guidelines. This national recommendation is to reduce the risk of false positive tests. If you have given consent for your child to be tested but they have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days your child should not attend the initial LFD testing in school. In this scenario we will ensure that where consent for testing has been given, home test kits (with appropriate training) are distributed at the end of the 90 day period. If you have not let the school know that your child has tested positive for COVID-19 since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 then please email [covid@nsb.northants.sch.uk](mailto:covid@nsb.northants.sch.uk) as soon as possible. Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days will not receive an invite for an LFD test.

### **Government Household Testing Scheme**

To supplement the testing of secondary aged students in school outlined above, the government has confirmed yesterday twice-weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests will be given for free to all families and households with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles, to help find more COVID-19 cases and break chains of transmission. More details can be found here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_source=813f5236-80a6-4440-bd45-db9f6692837d&utm\\_content=immediately](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=813f5236-80a6-4440-bd45-db9f6692837d&utm_content=immediately)

Please contact Mr Kneeshaw or Mr Armstrong [carmstrong@nsb.northants.sch.uk](mailto:carmstrong@nsb.northants.sch.uk) at the school in the first instance if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



Richard Bernard  
Headmaster  
Northampton School *for Boys*