



3rd March 2021

Herringthorpe Valley Road
Rotherham S65 3BE

Telephone: 01709 828183

Email: schooladmin@sbch.org.uk

Website: www.sbch.org.uk

Principal: Siobhan Kent

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to get in touch to update you on our testing programme which will support the eagerly awaited return of our wonderful children next week.

As you are already aware, the students will return on a staggered start as follows:

Monday 8th March

- Year 11 students return at 8:40am
- Year 10 students return at 11:15am

Tuesday 9th March

- Year 9 students return at 8:40am
- Year 8 students return at 11:15am

Wednesday 10th March

- Year 7 students return at 8:40am

All students should return to school through their separate entry and exit points as pre lockdown.

As the students return, those whose parents have given permission for them to have Covid-19 tests will receive three tests between their return and the 19th March.

We took the decision as a school that, in order to support the students and make them feel as comfortable as possible, we would only train our own staff (teachers, support staff and leaders) to deliver the testing programme. Therefore, please feel reassured that our students will be in an environment which is completely familiar, with staff who they know and trust.

The test site will be located in our school hall. Students will self-administer the tests with the help and support of our staff. They will then remain in the waiting area for their test result, which will arrive in approximately 30 minutes after taking the test. The results from each of the tests will be sent to the mobile device which has been provided on the consent form.



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Following a negative test result, the students will return to their lessons. Should a positive result be returned, students will be isolated in school and parents will be required to collect their child immediately from the school in order to return home to self-isolate. As always, we will support you in the actions that you need to take in the event of a positive result and will answer any questions that you may have.

From the 19th March, we will allocate home test kits to the students, supplied by the government, so that they can have regular testing in the home. The idea is that once the students have undergone three tests in school, they should feel comfortable to take the tests themselves in the home. Please let me reassure you that the tests are very simple to administer and the kits come with clear, easy to follow instructions.

Finally, I take this opportunity to say that we simply can't wait to welcome our students back into school life. The significant restrictions of our risk assessment will remain for some weeks yet so we need to ensure that we continue to be vigilant. However, there is a real light at the end of the tunnel and the promise of a graduated return to normal life.

This is a time which relies so much on quality communication between us in partnership for our children. I will continue to update you regularly on the return with updates and information that you may need. As always though, please let us know if you need anything at all, however big or small, to support you and your families over the coming weeks.

Stay safe and God Bless,

Siobhan Kent
Principal