

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parents and Carers

## RE: Year 9 – Lateral Testing Schedule

Further to the letter you received on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March regarding the Academy's return-to-school testing plans, I am writing to notify you of your child's initial testing day and time slot.

- To ensure clear organisation of this process, students will be invited into the Academy at a set time based upon their year group and English subject band groups.
- Please ensure that your child arrives approximately 5 minutes before their scheduled testing time and no earlier.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise that participating in this testing is **not** mandatory and students who do not take a test will **not** be stopped from returning to school.

For students wishing to take up this opportunity, their first testing day is **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021** at one of the following times:

English Subject Band Group	Arrival Time
9V1 and 9V2	8.45am
9G1	9.20am
9G2	9.45am
9G3	10.10am
9Z1	10.35am
9Z2	11.10am
9Z3	11.35am
9Y1	12.00pm
9Y2	12.15pm

Please note that the existing on-site provision for key worker, vulnerable and Eliot Centre students will continue next week; students who already have consented for testing will be tested on the same day as their year group as above, and then will return to their normal timetable lessons the following day. Further information will also follow for all Eliot Centre students.

### How the testing day will run:

- Upon arrival, students will be required to go directly to the external Sports Hall doors at the front of the Academy building.

- Students should ensure that they are following all government guidance regarding COVID-19 safety, including social distancing, wearing face coverings and hand sanitisation.
- Students will be led through the testing process by members of staff who will assist them in self-testing. **Members of the academy's staff will not be able to administer tests for any students.**
- Students do not need to wear Academy uniform when they attend to take their first test.
- Students should ensure that they arrive on time for their scheduled test. Unfortunately, parents and carers will be unable to enter the academy site to accompany students to their test.
- After taking their test, students will be asked to wait in a designated area until their results have been received (approximately 30 minutes) and will then be allowed home to continue with their remote learning for the remainder of that day.
- If a positive test is received by your child, we will contact you to notify you immediately.

### Returning to the Academy:

Students receiving negative results from their tests will return to the academy on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021**. Upon return to the Academy, students will need to follow our policies regarding uniform and behaviour including:

- Return to year group 'bubbles', including using the entrances and exits to the building as previously established.
- PE kit must be worn to the Academy on the days when students have a PE lesson.
- The timings of the Academy day remain unchanged.
- Following all COVID-19 protocols and social distancing.

I am sure you will appreciate that setting up and running this testing on such a large scale is a complex and challenging undertaking for the Academy and that our ultimate aim is to return students to their learning as quickly as possible whilst keeping students and staff safe. For this reason, students will only return to the Academy on a staggered basis following their initial testing.

Further information regarding 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> testing at the Academy, and the distribution of home testing kits for students will be announced at the beginning of week-commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

I would like to once more thank you for your patience and support during this period of uncertainty.

Yours faithfully

Jennie Best

**Executive Principal**

**Deputy CEO**

