



26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Student

I am sure you are all aware of the significance of Monday 8 March as the day for schools to reopen. Given the chaotic nature of the announcements in December and January it has been helpful to have had more time to consider the school's interpretation of the [guidance](#), which is very detailed and a good source of reference should you wish to look further. For those of you who like a quick read this is not the email for you as I feel the need to set out in detail what will happen in the weeks leading up to the Easter break - the last day of term is Thursday 1 April. Yesterday Ofqual published its [response to the consultation](#) on exam grades for students in Years 11 and 13 - I will leave the school's response to this until next week once we have had time to fully understand the implications.

A summary of the main issues:

- Students to be tested during the week commencing 8 March coming to school on their test day and then returning home.
- Students will attend school the day after their test (provided it is negative) in full school uniform according to the normal timetable.
- All students will have been tested to allow for full attendance from Monday 15 March.
- Until the end of term face masks must be worn by students and staff in all lessons (apart from Core PE) and anywhere inside the buildings as social distancing measures cannot be maintained. A register of those who are medically exempt will be maintained by Matron.

The points below set out the measures to be taken in greater detail.

Monday 1 - Friday 5 March

1. Online teaching will continue for all year groups until Thursday 4 March.
2. Vulnerable and Critical Worker (VCW) students will continue to attend school until Thursday 4 March.
3. Friday 5 March will be a non-teaching day when all members of staff will come into school to prepare for the reopening the following week. It will also be when staff take a lateral flow test.
4. No students should attend school on 5 March and there will be no online learning.
5. Members of staff will be able to take home tests to carry out self-testing from 8 March.
6. Students for whom there is consent will be tested according to the schedule below. If consent was given in January then this will be considered to be still valid. In January consent was received for 84% of students. Every effort will be made to increase this to 100% before 8 March - so please expect a follow up if consent was not given at the beginning of term.
7. VCW students who have undertaken a number of tests will be issued with home self-testing kits to use from 8 March.

	Students in School	Lateral Flow Tests	Online Remote Learning at Home
Fri 5 Mar	None	Staff (Test 1) Self-testing kits issued.	None

Monday 8 - Friday 12 March

8. Since January we have conducted lateral flow tests each week on VCW students and staff who have been in school. As of yesterday of the 641 tests 635 were negative - 99%. Of the six tests that were positive only one was confirmed positive by a follow up PCR test conducted at a walk in site, usually in Aylesbury. So we have built up some experience on which to carry out the testing programme moving forward. This is the instructional [leaflet](#) with some more information that was originally circulated in December.
9. Students will be invited to attend the school in a time slot during this week for their Test 1, which will take place in the Hall (school uniform is not required for Test 1). Parents will be informed of the time slot next week. I realise that this will cause inconvenience for families, particularly for those with children in more than one year group, but we have little choice in the matter.
10. Once they have completed Test 1 students will return home. If the test is positive they will be contacted and advised to [book in for a PCR test](#). A return to school will be possible once a negative PCR test has been confirmed or on completion of 10 days of isolation. The PCR test results have been coming through within 24 hours.
11. Provided that the test is negative they will attend school from the following day in full school uniform attending lessons according to the normal timetable.
12. VCW students will continue to attend, but go to normal timetable lessons at which the teacher will have the challenge of teaching those in front of them and those at home.
13. School transport will commence from Tuesday 9 March.
14. The Canteen will open to serve food for students from Wednesday 10 March.
15. Year groups having Test 1 will not be set online work that day.
16. Year groups not in school will continue to have online work.
17. A further test (Test 2) will take place for Years 11-13 by removing students from lessons on a rota basis.

	Students in School	Lateral Flow Tests	Online Remote Learning at Home
Mon 8 Mar	VCW VCW issued with self-testing kits.	Years 12-13 (Test 1)	Years 7-11
Tue 9 Mar	VCW (Years 7-10) Years 12-13	Year 11 (Test 1)	Years 7-10
Wed 10 Mar	VCW (Years 7-8) Years 11-13	Year 9 (Test 1) Year 10 (Test 1)	Years 7-8
Thu 11 Mar	VCW (Years 7-8) Years 9-13	Years 12-13 (Test 2) Year 11 (Test 2)	Years 7-8
Fri 12 Mar	Years 9-13	Year 7 (Test 1) Year 8 (Test 1)	None

Monday 15 - Friday 26 March

18. Further tests (Tests 2 and 3) will take place by removing students from lessons on a rota basis.

	Students in School	Lateral Flow Tests	Online Remote Learning at Home
Mon 15 Mar	Years 7-13	Year 9 (Test 2) Year 10 (Test 2)	None
Tue 16 Mar	Years 7-13	Year 7 (Test 2) Year 8 (Test 2)	None
Wed 17 Mar	Years 7-13		None
Thu 18 Mar	Years 7-13	Years 12-13 (Test 3)	None
Fri 19 Mar	Years 7-13	Year 11 (Test 3)	None
Mon 22 Mar	Years 7-13	Year 10 (Test 3)	None
Tue 23 Mar	Years 7-13	Year 9 (Test 3)	None
Wed 24 Mar	Years 7-13		None
Thu 25 Mar	Years 7-13	Year 8 (Test 3)	None
Fri 26 Mar	Years 7-13	Year 7 (Test 3)	None

Other Issues

19. In the event of there being a positive test result of a member of staff or student then the 10-day isolation period for close contacts will apply as it did in the Autumn Term (when it was 14 days).
20. The lateral flow testing will be carried out in the Hall, which will remain as a testing venue throughout this period. We hope to be able to erect a marquee as a shelter for students during break and lunchtime until the end of term.
21. The school will seek volunteers from the parent body and other contacts to assist with the testing. A separate email will be sent to parents today seeking volunteers.
22. The measures introduced in September to reduce transmission of the virus will continue including:
- One-way system
 - Frequent cleaning of desks and equipment
 - Year group toilets
 - Staggered breaks and lunch
 - Message - hands, face, space
 - Rooms to be ventilated as much as possible
23. Additional measures will include:
- Staff and students will wear face coverings when inside the buildings with the exception of PE until the end of term. I realise that this will be a huge challenge for both students

and staff, but if it reduces the transmission of the virus and allows for the reduction of restrictions by the summer it will be worth the effort.

- b. No assemblies

I realise that this is a huge amount of information to take in, which is why I wanted to give parents and students as much notice as possible. If you have any questions please address them to office@johncolet.co.uk and I will collate them into a document which will be placed on the school website alongside a copy of this letter.

We are aware that many parents and students will have anxieties over and above the measures set out above and I would urge you to look through the resources provided by the school as part of the [Well Being pack](#).

In the meantime I hope that you continue to enjoy good health.

Regards

Patrick Harty
Headteacher