

John Colet School
Reopening of School - March 2021
Parent and Student Q&A

The arrangements for reopening the school from 8 March following the national lockdown are set out in the [Headteacher's letter of 26 February](#). The questions below have been received in response to this letter.

Emails sent to office@johncolet.co.uk on 26.02.21

Will VCW students need to wear full school uniform from the 8th March?

Yes

Will students be allowed to wear PE Kits to school on PE days?

No. Normal school uniform every day. Students should bring in their PE kit for days when they have Core PE.

Will the students be conducting their own lateral flow tests in school?

Under supervision students will swab their own throat and nose, then the swap will be taken for testing by a member of staff or volunteer.

Will the volunteers be tested?

Yes, just as members of staff are who have been conducting tests since January.

Will the volunteers have a DBS?

This will not be necessary as there will be a DBS-checked member of staff on duty at all times.

As a family we all tested positive for covid 19 in January. Myself and my husband both work in the NHS and are unable to use our lateral flow tests for 90 days after a positive PCR test Result as they may give a false positive result. Is this the same for the school lateral flow tests?

So far this has not been a significant issue in school. Staff or students who have had Covid-19 have reported the same advice from the NHS, but they have not tested positive using the lateral flow tests. It would be better to carry on with the school lateral flow tests and then consider a course of action if there is a positive result.

Mr X was annoyed to receive our email saying that the year 7 students will not be back in school full time from the 8th March - he said that was the Government's guidelines and that is what he had been working towards. The family have arranged to go back to work and made arrangements in view of the fact that the Government have said ALL kids back to school on the 8th March.

The [Operational Guidance](#) provided for schools by the Department of Education states on p30 that secondary schools are to undertake lateral flow testing for students before they return to school and should arrange for this testing to be carried out from 8 March. All students will be back in school the day after a negative test has been confirmed, but this has to be staggered over the week. The document also states that priority should be given to Years 10-13.

Secondary school testing on-site through an Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS)

Secondary schools should offer pupils testing at an on-site ATS from 8 March. Testing and return of pupils can be phased during the first week to manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time. You should offer 3 tests, 3 to 5 days apart.

You have the flexibility to consider how best to deliver testing on a phased basis from 8 March, depending on your circumstances and local arrangements, but you should prioritise vulnerable children and children of critical workers, and year groups 10 to 13.

Pupils should return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Pupils not undergoing testing should attend school in line with your phased return arrangements. Schools will have discretion on how to test students over that week as they return to the classroom.

What happens if I don't wish for my daughter to be tested?

If consent is not given then the school will not call a student to be tested. The school will also not be in a position to provide home self-testing kits for those students who do not complete the three tests in school.