

## Queen Elizabeth High School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham Northumberland NE46 3JB

Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins Head of School: Neil Seaton

25 February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

## Return to school arrangement for all students

As you will have heard, the Government has announced that schools in England can welcome all students back to school from 8 March. This is great news and we very much look forward to everyone returning.

The intention is that secondary/high school students are tested for Covid-19 as part of their return. As such, arrangements for our students will be as follows:

- Friday 5 March Year 11, 12 & 13 students will be given time slots to come into school for their lateral flow test, after which they will return home. No live teaching will take place on this day or on the Monday, but remote learning tasks will be set.
- Monday 8 March Year 9 & 10 students will be given time slots to come into school for their lateral flow test, after which they will return home. No live teaching will take place on this day or the preceding Friday, but remote learning tasks will be set.
- Tuesday 9 March All year groups will return to school, other than those who may have to isolate. Arrangements will be made to test any student who has missed their test.

Note: On Friday 5 and Monday 8, the school will remain open for vulnerable children and those of critical workers. However, given the amount of testing we will be undertaking on these days, it would be helpful if students were able to remain at home (other than coming in for scheduled tests). Please let us know if your child will need to be in school on these days by completing this <u>form</u> by the end of Monday 1 March.

After an initial programme of three tests in school over ten days, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. Important details on testing are included in the document sent out along with this letter. Please read this carefully and complete the associated consent <u>form</u> **by Sunday 28 February**.

## Request for volunteers to support asymptomatic testing in school

To assist with the amount of testing required, we are looking for your support. If you have availability on any or some (or all!) of the following days, please let us know by completing this <u>form</u>:

- Friday 5 March
- Monday 8 March
- Wednesday 10 March
- Thursday 11 March
- Monday 15 March
- Tuesday 16 March

The tests are self-administered by students but we require assistance with administrating the process. As a volunteer, you will receive full training and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). We already have staff on site who have been testing staff in school and they will be on hand to offer advice and guidance.

Mr Seaton will write to you with much more detail on the return arrangements next week. In the meantime, thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours faithfully

Graeme Atkins

**Executive Headteacher**