



24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Opening School to all Students from March 8th

You will know that the government announced, on Monday, that all schools would reopen on the 8<sup>th</sup> March for all students. The reopening of education settings to all is being prioritised due to the significant impact caused by being out of school to the mental and physical health and wellbeing of children and young people. In this context our priorities have to be to: support students to quickly and safely return to the normality, routines and structure of school and learning; and do all that we can to keep students, staff and their families safe.

Schools are required to offer students the opportunity to have an asymptomatic test before they return to school. **Our intention is to offer this test on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March to all students so that all students can return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.** Students will then take two more tests 3-5 days apart whilst they are in school and will then be offered home testing kits to use twice weekly. Along with the other control measures we already have in place, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible for students and staff. **The testing is voluntary, but we would strongly encourage everyone to take part.**

More information will be shared next week about how students will return to school but in the meantime we need, urgently, for you and your children to give consent to take part in the testing programme. You may find it helpful to watch [this video](#) with your child/children where Mrs Blacow takes students through how the testing will work in school. This [instructional leaflet](#) from the NHS explains how the Lateral Flow Device Tests are carried out. You can find out how the data will be used by reading the [privacy statement for the school](#) and [NHS Test and Trace privacy here](#).

Those taking the test will carry out a self-swab test and will be guided by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. Trained staff will oversee the swab process for anyone who is under 18 years old. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with students participating, if positive. Testing will be offered free of charge.

## Consenting to the Asymptomatic Testing

All students who are 16 years or older must now complete this [online form](#) to indicate whether they give their consent to participating in the testing. I would strongly advise that you work through this form with your child.

Parents of children who are younger than 16 must now complete this [online form](#). If you have more than one child under the age of 16 at Kimberley School, you will need to complete the form for each child.

Forms should be completed and submitted before 9am on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Please complete the relevant form according to your child's age at the time of completion. If the student turns 16 after this date they will still be able to withdraw the consent, that you have given on their behalf, prior to the test.

I apologise that the form is quite lengthy, the information contained within it will be used to register your child for the test on the day and time which we will allocate. The form is available in a PDF format which you can request from school reception, if you would prefer, and once complete a photo or hard copy can be forwarded to the school. If you need assistance, please do contact us.

If you and your children have given consent, then we will be in touch week beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> March to confirm your appointment time for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Please remember that school transport will not be running on the 7<sup>th</sup> March and students will need to make their own way to school. Students will be able to maintain social distancing at all times when they are on the site on the 7<sup>th</sup> March and will be expected to leave the site as soon as their test is completed. They will need to wear face coverings throughout.

Finally, our aspiration is to have all students back in school on the morning of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. However, running the testing programme on the 7<sup>th</sup> March is a significant challenge and there may be circumstances where we have to delay the return to school until Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. I would ask that parents have contingency plans in place for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March in the event that the school is unable to open.

At the end of the letter I have set out some Frequently Asked Questions that you might find helpful. If you are unable to find the answers to your questions in this letter than you can call the office on 0115 938 7000 or email [k.andrews@kimberleyschool.co.uk](mailto:k.andrews@kimberleyschool.co.uk)

I will be in touch with you next week with more details about the arrangements for returning to school.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew George  
**Head teacher**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What if a student tests positive?**

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Please be aware that in line with our Privacy Statement, we will share the results of the test for over 16s with their parents also – this is because the whole household will be required to isolate and therefore it is in Public Interest for this information to be shared. When sharing a positive result with over 16s the student will be informed that a disclosure will be made to their parents also and any concerns regarding this should be discussed at the time. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

As the test is being carried out by trained staff, students will not need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm their result. However, once students begin taking these at home you will be required to take a PCR test to confirm the result via [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test you should choose to visit a drive-through/walk-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.



If we identify that your son or daughter has had a positive LFD result they will need to self-isolate along with members of their household for 10 days from the date of their result.

## **What happens if the test is negative?**

The student will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

## **What if a close contact at school tests positive?**

At present, a close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will also need to self-isolate for 10 days. Isolation will not apply to household members of close contacts unless the individual later develops symptoms themselves.

## **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at The Kimberley School is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

## **I do want my child to take part in the testing programme but cannot arrange transport for 7<sup>th</sup> March, what can I do?**

Please contact us directly to discuss, we may be able to arrange for your child to take a test prior to attending school on the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> March however they should not mix with others until they have received a negative test result.

## **I have more than one child attending The Kimberley School, how will slots be allocated?**

We are looking at offering specific slots for siblings to enable them to attend at the same time however we are still working on the logistics of this but will try to accommodate this so that all your children can be tested in one visit.

## **My child has had COVID-19 within the last 90 days – can they still participate?**

Yes, there is still a lot of research regarding whether those who have had COVID-19 can still be asymptomatic even if they have had the virus with the last 90 days, therefore if you do wish for them to participate they may do so.

## **My child is anxious about the test but I really want them to take part, what can I do to support them?**

We understand their anxieties and will have plenty of staff on hand to guide them through the process. The best way to support them is to watch the video by Mrs Blacow and talk them through the process. Students may be accompanied into the centre by one adult who may assist them if required, however we would prefer (for social distancing purposes) for them to attend on their own if possible. (One adult may wait with them until they enter the centre).