

31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, the Education Secretary has now announced the plan for the return to education from next week and, as always, I am writing to inform you of this plan, and will continue to keep you updated with any further changes as they emerge.

The information received so far is as follows:

Week beginning 4th January - only children of keyworkers, those with an EHCP and those classed as vulnerable will be taught in school. All other children will be taught remotely. A form has previously been sent in this respect, but if you have not yet completed the link and intend on sending your child in, please complete the form urgently.

<https://forms.gle/3rGg3sK1z542bUTYA>. Please only complete the form and send your child in if you have no other alternatives. The students on site will form a new bubble (mixed year groups) and be based in IT suites so that they can access the remote learning offer which all students will be following. Transport and food will be available, but the form MUST be completed by Friday 1st January 2021 if you wish to send your child(ren) in.

During the week beginning 4th January, we will be working with Ormiston Academies Trust and the Local Authority on the roll out of staff / student lateral flow testing in school. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests can help staff and pupils 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. The test is voluntary, but we have agreed to participate and I would encourage all students and staff to take part.

We will begin testing those staff and students who want to participate from week commencing 4th January 2021, and will extend this as more students return in the following weeks.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information, as well as a consent form, which you are required to complete if you wish your child(ren) to be tested. Please complete one form for each child.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please:

- Complete the form below (one per child).
- Complete the enclosed consent statement (one per student) and return it to hgreen@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk or leave a hard copy at reception. We will create hard copies when we return on the 5th so if anyone would like a hard copy please come to the main reception.

Those taking the test will be supervised by support staff and volunteers who have been specifically trained to undertake these tests. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy, using a swab of the nose and throat. For under-18s, staff will be on-hand to oversee the swab process, and to offer support. If you would like to volunteer to support us in administering the tests and have some time, please do let me know. However I can assure you full safeguarding and training will be in place before this happens.

Results take around half an hour from testing and will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under-16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

The Government has shared information with us from Oxford University and Public Health England, which have indicated the tests are as accurate in identifying a case as a 'PCR test' (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but are considered better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Week beginning 11th January - Year 11,12 and 13 students will return to school with the children of key workers, children with EHCP's and those who are vulnerable. All other children (years 7-10) will continue to be taught remotely during this week.

I am aware that we have a number of exams and controlled assessments due to start during this period of time, and I would like to reassure you that we will be contacting the exam boards to seek further instructions in this respect. As soon as we get this we will, of course, share it with you, students and staff.

All students will have access to live lessons from Tuesday 5th January. Students will follow their usual timetable and we will start back on Week B. Staff will set written work for Monday 4th January only. Further information will be shared on Monday 4th January, however we have updated our website with useful information and have uploaded in advance "You Tube" help videos to assist you in accessing our Google learning platform.

<https://www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk/google-remote-learning>

Just a reminder, we have purchased many online software packages using the Covid funding, to support your child(ren). These are suitable for all year groups, so please take a look at the link below which will help you to log in and access even more revision material and learning support for all subjects:

<https://www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk/digital-learning-and-revision>

I would like to assure you that we continue to plan and to work hard to ensure that we are ready to welcome and to teach your child(ren); either face-to-face or on-line from Tuesday 5th January. Our wellbeing team will be making calls to students once we return. As always if you have any wellbeing concerns you can contact the team on wellbeing@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

As always if you have any questions please feel free to contact me:
ebaker@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe New Year.

Kind regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Baker', enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval border.

Emma Baker
Principal

Consent form for COVID-19 testing in School

This form is based on the Department for Education's common template which has been designed for use by parents and guardians of pupils under 16; by parents and guardians of students over 16; and by staff.

- **For pupils younger than 16 years old** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.
- **Students aged over 16** can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the academy about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated 31/12/2020.

2. In the case of under-16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.

3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.

4. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.

5. I understand that if my child / my result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the Academy except where they / you are a close contact of a confirmed positive.

6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having / having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test and Trace laboratory.

7. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.

8. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school / college and I understand that I / my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.

9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but I / my child has tested negative, I / they will continue to attend school / college but will be tested every day at school / college for seven days.

10. I consent to the information being collected in the form being processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act UK for the purposes of health and or social care. More information about how the information is used can be found at:

<http://www.ormistonacademiestrust.co.uk/privacy-notice/>

Consent Form

Your name (i.e. of parent / guardian / member of staff)	
Home postcode	
Email Address	
Mobile number	
House phone number	
Name of pupil/student/staff to be tested	
Date of Birth	
Gender at birth	
Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms? (Yes/No)	
Year group (if applicable)	
Name of parent or guardian if under 16 (print)	
Date	
Relationship to child if under 16	
Signature to confirm agreement to this consent form	
Date	