



Eden Boys

25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – 13<sup>th</sup> Rajab 1442

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Assalaamu Alaikum (May Peace be with you)

I am writing to provide an update on your child's learning over the next few weeks.

### **School Reopening**

On Monday evening, the Prime Minister announced that schools will start to reopen from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March onwards.

Over the next two weeks, pupils will follow their usual timetable from home (online via MS Teams). The children of key workers and vulnerable learners will continue to attend school.

**On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, all pupils will return to school.**

I will write to you again next week to outline the specific arrangements for your child's return to school, including a reminder of the expectations of all pupils (due to COVID-19).

In the meantime, during their online lessons, please continue to encourage your child to participate fully. In particular, please ensure that they:

- Go to bed on time during school nights and have a good routine for learning, play, reflection and rest.
- Wake up on time, have breakfast, get dressed and are ready to learn by 8.00am each morning.
- Have a break and lunch at the allocated time on their timetable, stepping away from their device.
- Stay focused during their lessons and complete all of the activities given by the teacher.
- Complete all of the homework tasks given to them.

### **COVID-19 Testing in School**

In order to ensure that the school is as safe as possible, and in line with government expectations, we will be running a **Covid-19 Lateral Flow Test programme for all consenting students. The testing programme will start from Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.** Please find additional information about the testing on page 4 of this letter. If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the electronic consent form by **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March.** The link to the consent form has been sent separately.

The test will be supervised by trained school staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. The test is quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. Results are available within 30 minutes and will be shared directly with participating pupils and their parents.

**We will be testing all participating pupils three times.** After this initial testing, pupils will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home.



The programme for testing will begin as follows:

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March:

- Pupils in Year 7 should come to the sports hall between 8am and 9.00am for their first test
- Pupils in Year 8 should come to the sports hall between 9.30am and 10.30am for their first test
- Pupils in Year 9 should come to the sports hall between 11am and 12pm for their first test
- Pupils in Year 10 should come to the sports hall between 12.30pm and 1.30pm for their first test
- Pupils in Year 11 should come to the sports hall between 2pm and 3pm for their first test.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March:

- Pupils in Year 7 should come to the sports hall between 8am and 9.00am for their second test
- Pupils in Year 8 should come to the sports hall between 9.30am and 10.30am for their second test
- Pupils in Year 9 should come to the sports hall between 11am and 12pm for their second test
- Pupils in Year 10 should come to the sports hall between 12.30pm and 1.30pm for their second test
- Pupils in Year 11 should come to the sports hall between 2pm and 3pm for their second test.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help pupils to remain in school safely. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

### **GCSE and BTEC Examinations**

As you are aware, the Government has announced that GCSE exams would no longer go ahead this summer. Instead, teachers will be asked to issue grades based on tests completed in school and the exam boards will check that these grades have been issued correctly.

When your child returns to school, they will be asked to complete tests for each subject. Based on the final Ofqual guidance, these tests may be used by your child's teachers to decide their grade.

The first set of tests are scheduled during week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The timetable for these assessments has been shared with your child.

Please note that the tests completed in March will not be the final assessments – there will be more tests after Easter so that your child can continue to demonstrate their grade. Your child's teachers will deliver revision lessons before each test and share information about the assessment so that they can prepare adequately. The aim is to give pupils the best possible chance to demonstrate their learning and maximise their grade.

It is understandable that pupils in exam classes will feel anxious and uncertain about their grades. However, please reassure your child that **participating fully in lessons, completing all homework and trying their best in every assessment** will help to improve their grade and achieve the best possible result in the summer. We are committed to working as hard as possible to ensure that none of our pupils are disadvantaged by the cancellation of exams.

### **Laptops Return**

If your child has borrowed a laptop, please return the device to the school reception office on their first day back at school.

If you have any queries or concerns, or need support in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school and our efforts on behalf of your child.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Ravat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

**Asiyah Ravat**  
**Executive Principal**

**COVID-19 Rapid Tests Registration and Consent Form – Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11**

- **For pupils aged 16 years or younger (in Year 7 to 11)** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.
1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter.
  2. 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 my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.
  4. I consent that my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
  5. I understand that if my child's results are negative on the lateral flow test, I will not be contacted by the school except where they 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 a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
  7. I consent that 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 child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school and I understand that 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 my child has tested negative, they will continue to attend school but will be tested every day at school for 7 days.

<b>First Name (of pupil)</b>	
<b>Last Name (of pupil)</b>	
<b>Date of Birth (of pupil)</b>	
<b>Year Group</b>	
<b>Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms?</b>	
<b>Home Postcode</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	
<b>Parent's Mobile Number</b>	
<b>Name of parent or guardian (print)</b>	
<b>Signature of parent</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Relationship to student</b>	

**Additional Information**



**HOW TO DO YOUR TEST**

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

**1** YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

**2** YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

**3** BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

**4** OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

10 SECS

**5** REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

**6** GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

**7** AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

**8** YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

**9** YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Do these tests work?

In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, these tests were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity, but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). The school will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [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 yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email), they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result, you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

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

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil 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 pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

#### What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

#### What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at 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>.