

12 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It is brilliant to have all the children back in school now. The canteen could not quite believe how busy they were at lunch time today – they had to cook more chips! Behaviour is outstanding and the students are following the one-way system, wearing masks as required and being respectful of the additional health and safety rules in these COVID times.

Attendance has been simply outstanding – 97% for the week! We have been glad to have them back and they seem keen to be back.

We have been so grateful for the enormous support from you, our parents, to get the children back to school safely. We are also incredibly grateful to the governors and parents who have volunteered to help run the SVCS testing centre in G6 – we simply couldn't have done it without the volunteers. There is one more week of testing in school next week until all the children will have done three tests.

Borrowed laptops

Students with borrowed laptops should keep these at home until after Easter. As lockdown restrictions are eased a timetable will be issued for returning the laptops so that they can be processed and returned to use in school.

Lateral Flow Testing in School

Thank you for responding to the request for consent for testing promptly and also for bringing your children into school for their first tests. Consent at the start of the week was at just under 96% and is now just over 97% - over 97% of the students have been tested since last Friday, years 11, 10 and 9 twice. I am pleased to tell you that all tests so far have had a negative result. All staff are also testing twice a week.

Once the children have done three tests in school, we will provide each student with a home test kit which contains seven tests. There are clear instructions inside, and the students know how to do the tests, as they are the same as the ones they have been doing in school. The government are asking students to test twice a week at home. You must report your results to the NHS. You need the QR code, or the ID number under it, on the test strip to report the result. Report online (fastest) www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result or by telephone 0330 303 2713. If needed our test site ID is **svcs**

If your son/daughter gets a positive result, please also inform the school, self-isolate and book a PCR test. If that comes back negative, then your child can return to school. If positive, then your child and the rest of the family will need to isolate for 10 days.

Family COVID Testing

The government announced on 28 February that families can access Covid-19 testing kits if they have children who are of primary, secondary or college age. This also includes tests for people who are part of your childcare and support bubbles. The tests should be undertaken twice each week, starting from 8 March. The government say that " *With about a third of individuals with coronavirus showing no*



symptoms and potentially spreading it without knowing, targeted, regular testing will mean more positive cases within households are found and prevented from entering schools and colleges, helping to keep educational settings safe."

Families can access COVID-19 tests in the following ways;

- collecting a home test kit from your employer, if they have been supplied with them
- by booking a test at an asymptomatic test site in Sudbury, Haverhill, Hadleigh or Bury St Edmunds <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/findatestcenter.html> by collecting a home test kit from a site in Cambridge, Ipswich or Colchester <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/findatestcenter.html>
- by ordering a home test kit online <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/order-lateral-flow-kits/condition> Please note that we have been issued with enough home tests kits for students and staff and these should not be used to test family members to ensure we have enough for the school community. All test kits are free.

Some recommendations with regard to wearing face coverings

As students are currently wearing a mask for most of the day, all students have seen a PowerPoint and video in tutor time this week about wearing a face covering properly and hygienically.

We recommend a reusable mask/face covering so that they can use it more than once throughout the day. Otherwise, they will need to bring in several single-use face coverings each day. Bringing a spare is a good idea, even for the re-usable ones; if it becomes damp or dirty, they then have a spare. Having spares will avoid the need to rely on washing and drying overnight.

We do have some single-use masks in the office if your child ever forgets to bring a spare and needs one during the day.

Reusable face coverings will need to be washed daily, ready for your child to wear the next day. You can wash and dry reusable face coverings with normal laundry – follow the washing instructions for the fabric and use normal detergent at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged.

Message for Parents of Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition Students

All Y11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students will be carrying out their final practical assessment in the coming weeks. Mrs Iannone asks that you check with your child when this is and ensure they come to school prepared. They have been given the dates and a list of additional ingredients they will require.

Cycle Allowance

Starting in September 2021, Active Travel have a new get to school scheme: the pilot cycle allowance is £70 per term or £210 in a lump sum if a bike purchase is necessary. You need to be an 11-16 year old; currently have a Suffolk County Council bus pass; complete the free Bikeability training level 3 and give up your bus pass for a whole year. Please click on this link for more details: <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/.../cycle-allowance-pilot.../>

Wishing you all a good weekend and we look forward to seeing all the students again on Monday.

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly
Headteacher

