

Tuesday, 23 February 2021

Re: Return to face-to-face learning

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and that half term was a time of rest for yourselves and your families.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson outlined the details for pupils to return to face-to-face teaching in schools. There is accompanying guidance from the Department of Education here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

We are now in the very early stages of planning how this will work at Leytonstone School. I will be in contact a number of times before 8th March, so please keep an eye out for emails from the school. We will be working very closely with the local authority on these plans.

If you have not yet provided consent for your child to take part in the testing process, I am strongly urging you to do so. Pupils swab themselves for these tests and results are returned very quickly. The online form is available here:

<https://forms.gle/yyMs2u92bhyjwXqG7>.

Further information about process can be found on page 2 of this letter.

If you are the parent or carer of a pupil in Year 11, you will soon be contacted again and provided with details of the school's plans for the awarding of qualifications for these pupils.

Despite the great challenge of preparing to once again receive pupils at the school face-to-face, we are all very excited by the prospect of seeing the pupils again.

I will be in contact again soon

Yours faithfully,

J McQuaid
Head Teacher

Lateral flow testing

When our pupils return to school, it is highly likely that schools will still be required to carry out testing onsite in order to isolate asymptomatic cases of Covid19.

This testing is voluntary, but we encourage you to consent for your child to participate in this programme.

- a. Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.
- b. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified.

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).

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?

The pupil 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 anything, please assume the test 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 my child develops symptoms?

This school testing programme 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>.

You may have further questions you would like to ask regarding onsite testing; please get in contact with the school in order to have those answered.