



CENTRAL FOUNDATION BOYS' SCHOOL

1st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Arrangements for the start of new term and NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. The last year has been one where we have looked to do all that we can to limit the impact of the pandemic on our students' education, whilst at the same time looking to keep the whole community as safe as we possibly can. The New Year needs to be a year in which any 'learning gap' that has opened up for our students is addressed. This goal will be the priority of our work in 2021, which will go hand in hand with our work to support the welfare of the students. I am painfully aware that we start the year having to give further focus to the actions that need to be taken to limit the transmission of the coronavirus. I also fear, that in the short term, we must expect more restrictions. However, we can now see an end to this pandemic, and I believe that the school and the community are well positioned to accelerate the progress of our students over the next few months, both in terms of their wellbeing and academic development.

In this letter I am setting out the arrangements for the start of the new term, which will include the government initiative of mass asymptomatic coronavirus testing in schools.

1. Arrangements for the start of the new term

In line with the government announcement on Wednesday, the arrangements for the start of the new term are as follows:

- **Monday 4th January** – INSET day – school open to staff only
- **Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th January** – remote learning for Year 11 and Year 13 only while the remaining Year groups stay at home on an extended term break
- **w/c Monday 11th January** – Year 11 and Year 13 return to school as normal while the remaining Year groups start remote learning
- **w/c Monday 18th January** – all Year groups return to school as normal

From Tuesday 5th January, the School will be open to the children of key workers and to the students who need some additional support. Parents who are key workers and are unable to provide care for their son during the period of remote learning and would like him to attend school should let the school know by emailing their son's name and class to info@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

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2. Remote learning and collection of workbooks

We will deliver a remote teaching programme that broadcasts live lessons to students in line with their daily timetable. A separate letter relating to remote learning will be sent to the parents next week.

Subject workbooks that the students are learning from were distributed to the students on the last day of term. If students need additional workbooks we will be contacting them separately to arrange for them to attend school to collect them. Students will be allocated a collection time slot and we kindly ask that students and parents adhere to this time slot so that we can manage the distribution of the workbooks in a safe and efficient manner.

3. Mass coronavirus asymptomatic testing in school

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, 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 and as safe as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We will be providing tests for all staff and students who want to participate. We will contact parents and students with a time slot for the test. We will start with staff, Year 11 and Year 13 students, then moving onto the rest of the school.

I have included as an attachment an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the attached consent statement (one per student). This consent form should be returned to the school by e-mail using the following address, info@cfbs.islington.sch.uk. Students will be able to collect a paper copy of the consent form when they come to collect their workbooks.

Those taking the test will be supervised by staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of one's nose and throat. They are designed to be used without the need for the presence of trained medical practitioners. We will, of course, be very happy for students to be accompanied by parents when they come to take the test.

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



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The government is confident that the tests work. In validation studies conducted by Oxford

University and Public Health England, they 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.

The tests are free of charge.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students 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.

Students 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 or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test themselves, the students 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), the students will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result, the student will need to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

The student will be able to attend school and carry on with their activities as normal. 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?

A close contact of someone in school 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.

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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>.

If a student does not feel well, even if they do not show any main coronavirus symptoms, they should remain at home until they are fully recovered.

If your child develops symptoms and is subsequently tested, they should remain at home until the test result has come back and is negative. If any other member(s) of your household is awaiting coronavirus test results, your child should also remain at home until all members of the household receive their test results and they are all negative.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 02072533741 or email info@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

Schedule of testing

The government is due to deliver test kits to school on Monday 4th January.

We are looking to test staff, Year 11, Year 13 and children of key workers in the w/c 4th January and the remaining Year groups in the w/c 11th January.

We aim to test all students before the start of their lessons on site and we will be contacting the families of relevant students with the arrangements for testing.

It is important that parents/carers and students provide their consent prior to the students being tested.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Jamie Brownhill
Headteacher

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