



The Woodlands Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs M Hockham

26 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

School Opening

I am writing to inform you that school will be fully open to **ALL** students from Monday March 8th. We will not be conducting a phased return, as feel it is the best interests of our students to get them back into school as soon as possible.

Mass Testing for secondary aged students

The Government announced that secondary aged students should take part in mass covid testing at the start of their return to school. The mass testing is **not** compulsory and we will not force any child to take part nor exclude them from attending school if they don't. If you have a secondary aged child that you would like to take part and feel are able to take part in the testing (the student would be required to self test with verbal support from staff) please can you return your signed consent form.

Home Testing for secondary aged students

The Government announced that secondary aged students will be provided with home testing kits to self administer twice weekly. If you feel your child is able to take part in the home testing process please can you let us know by completing and returning the slip below so we can organise test kits to be sent home.

Masks

The Government announced that all secondary aged students should wear masks at all times, again we appreciate that for some of our students this can be a challenge and whilst we will encourage students to wear a face mask, particularly in communal areas this will **not** be compulsory. Staff are being advised to wear masks where possible but again we recognise that this can have a detrimental impact on our ability to effectively communicate with students so will not be compulsory in classrooms.

Other actions

We will continue to follow all other advice and guidance provided by the Government including: providing well ventilated class rooms, encouraging social distancing and good hand hygiene (including the use of hand sanitiser when arriving at school and throughout the day). We will also be providing students with their own resources where possible to reduce cross contamination.



In the meantime can I remind you that if your child is unwell and/or presenting with covid symptoms please keep them at home. A covid test is recommended for anyone presenting with symptoms. We will continue to use the trace and track process to inform anyone who has had close contact within the previous 48 hours with a confirmed positive case to request they self isolate for a period of ten days. If during self isolation symptoms develop we ask that you contact us immediately.

Thank you for your continued support, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

M Hockham
Headteacher

Return Slip

I would like home testing kits for(name of student)

Signed(parent/carer)

Date.....