

2 March 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Following my letter on Friday, I write to update you on plans for the safe reopening of College and plans for Lateral Flow Testing.

### Testing

Schools and colleges have been asked to test all students using Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) three times in two weeks.

Your son/daughter has received an email seeking their consent to participate in the Lateral Flow Testing. Whilst government have indicated that testing is voluntary, we strongly encourage participation as testing can help identify asymptomatic cases and keep families and communities safe. If consent has not yet been given, please can you ask your son/daughter to do so by following the link on the email.

Students who have given their consent will shortly receive an email outlining the three occasions when their tests will take place and what they need to bring on the day of their test.

Once a student has had three negative test results, they will be issued with a home testing kit. This comes with instructions on use and will enable students to self-test twice a week.

### Transport

Most students will need to make their own way to and from their test appointment. I would ask that if you are picking up or dropping off your son/daughter that you remain in cars unless you need to support your son/daughter with testing. Students should need no more than 15-20 minutes to complete the test process.

To support the testing plan, all Priestley's direct bus services will be fully operational from Monday 8 March. Until then Warrington's Own Buses have a limited number of drivers but are able to run the P1, P2, and P6 routes this Thursday and Friday. Free travel is also available between Priestley College and the Warrington Interchange for all Priestley students between 10am and 3pm Monday to Friday, including this Thursday and Friday. Students simply need to show their College ID badge as they board the bus to claim this free travel.

### Reopening Planning

As indicated above, the priority for the next few weeks is the mass testing of students. Remote education will therefore continue until **Thursday 11 March**. Students should continue to use the Google Classroom links to access their lessons. Only students who have been invited into College for their voluntary test will be authorised to miss lessons. For these students, appropriate work will be set by class teachers or in some circumstances, video recordings of lessons will be available.

I am conscious that there will be mixed feelings about the return to face to face teaching. For some students, they will be keen to return to the classroom, see friends and teaching staff. For others there may be apprehension. I am keen to see all students meet their teachers regularly throughout the next few weeks but want to ensure that we open in a safe and controlled way. To this end, rather than operating a model of week in College and then a full week away from College, we will operate a model based on days.

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**When not in College, all lessons will take place remotely via Google Classroom at the scheduled time on the timetable.**

Thursday 11 March      **Year 2 students in College** & Year 1 students working remotely  
 Friday 12 March        **Year 1 students in College** & Year 2 students working remotely

W/C 15 March            **Year 2 in College** & Year 1 remote: Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
                                   **Year 1 in College** & Year 2 remote: Tuesday & Thursday

W/C 22 March            **Year 1 in College** & Year 2 remote: Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
                                   **Year 2 in College** & Year 1 remote: Tuesday & Thursday

I will write to you all nearer the time confirming plans for the week commencing 29 March as we may be in a position to have all students on site at this point. If we are moving towards this I will outline the additional Covid-secure measures we will take (e.g. Zones for students to study and eat in, use of outdoor spaces and our new covered seating area, staggered lesson end times and so on). Please note that College will be closed for an Inset Day on Thursday 1 April before Good Friday on 2 April.

The model is summarised below. Students are determined as 'Year 1' or 'Year 2' by their tutor group code (for example V1 is Year 1 and V2 is Year 2). If your son/daughter is unsure please ask them to contact their Progress / Personal Tutor.

	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sat</b>	Sun
<b>1 March</b>				<i>Testing commences</i>	<i>Testing</i>		
<b>8 March</b>	<i>Testing</i>	<i>Testing</i>	<i>Testing</i>	Y2	Y1		
<b>15 March</b>	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2		
<b>22 March</b>	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y1		

**Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Students**

Any student identified as CEV (including those under the new broader definition announced on 16 February) should stay at home and continue to engage in learning remotely. These students will have already received a letter from the NHS.

You will appreciate that there continues to be guidance updated regularly and as such, I may need to write to you again regularly in the weeks ahead. We will shortly be placing a FAQ sheet on our website that may answer any specific questions you may have about testing or reopening.

With my best wishes for you and your family,



**James Gresty**  
Principal