



# William Edwards School

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

## Re: Return to school and COVID testing arrangements

Further to my letter last week, I am writing to update you about the return to school and testing arrangements. As you are aware, last Monday it was announced that Secondary School pupils would be returning to school during the week of the 8<sup>th</sup> March and that schools had discretion about managing that return over the course of the five days in order to facilitate the testing of pupils.

Pupils will be tested 3 times at school with each test being 3 to 5 days apart. After their third test, pupils (and staff) will be provided with home testing kits in order to carry out twice weekly testing at home. The tests used both in school and at home are rapid (30 minute) lateral flow tests.

Testing all pupils whose parents have given consent is a huge logistical undertaking for a large school like William Edwards. We have over 3500 tests to complete in total in a little over two weeks. Our testing centre will be staffed by between 12 and 16 staff each day. As well as some external agency staff, it will be staffed entirely by the senior leadership team of the school as well as a handful of parental volunteers and office staff who have undergone the necessary training. I would like to publically thank them for their assistance. We have not used any of the schools teaching staff as that would take them away from the crucial job of planning and delivering lessons and helping our pupils adjust back into school.

The timetable for testing and the return for each year group is outlined below. **Please note that testing for years 10 and 11 and those pupils currently accessing our key worker or vulnerable pupil provision starts this week.** An additional letter will be sent to each pupil / parent which gives the appointment time for their first test and more specific details. We will also write to you near the end of the testing cycle with further details about the home testing arrangements. Additionally, we have placed the presentation that we will go through with pupils when they arrive for their first test on the COVID-19 area of our website for you to view and to show your child if you wish. Within the presentation is an instructional NHS film about taking a swab sample. It can also be found by clicking [HERE](#).

### Year 7

First test date	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March*
Second test date	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March
Third test date	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> March
Full return to school for the whole year group	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March
Last day the year group will be taught remotely	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March

\*Please note that there will be no remote lessons on this day and pupils will be given a specific appointment time to attend school. They will leave site once the testing has finished. This should be 30 – 45 minutes after their appointment time.

### Year 8

First test date	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March*
Second test date	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March
Third test date	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March
Full return to school for the whole year group	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March
Last day the year group will be taught remotely	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March

\*Please note that there will be no remote lessons on this day and pupils will be given a specific appointment time to attend school. They will leave site once the testing has finished. This should be 30 – 45 minutes after their appointment time.



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### **Year 9**

First test date	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March*
Second test date	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Third test date	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March
Full return to school for the whole year group	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March
Last day the year group will be taught remotely	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March

\*Please note that there will be no remote lessons on this day and pupils will be given a specific appointment time to attend school. They will leave site once the testing has finished. This should be 30 – 45 minutes after their appointment time.

### **Year 10**

First test date	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March*
Second test date	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March*
Third test date	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March
Full return to school for the whole year group	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Last day the year group will be taught remotely	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March

\*Please note that there will be no remote lessons on this day and pupils will be given a specific appointment time to attend school. They will leave site once the testing has finished. This should be 30 – 45 minutes after their appointment time.

### **Year 11**

First test date	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March*
Second test date	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March*
Third test date	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Full return to school for the whole year group	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Last day the year group will be taught remotely	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March

\*Please note that there will be no remote lessons on this day and pupils will be given a specific appointment time to attend school. They will leave site once the testing has finished. This should be 30 – 45 minutes after their appointment time.

### **Pupils currently on site accessing key worker or vulnerable pupil provision.**

First test date	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March
Second test date	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Third test date	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Full return to school for the whole year group	Currently in school
Last day the year group will be taught remotely	Currently in school

As you will see from the presentation on the website, we will contact you immediately should any of the tests come back as positive. However, at the end of each day we also upload the results to the NHS Test and Trace system and provide your child with their test barcode if you wish to check the results.

If you did not provide consent for the tests, then your child will simply return to school with the rest of their year group on the relevant table above which contains the 'full return to school for the whole year group' date.

The next letter you will receive from us will outline:

- 1) Your child's first test appointment time. For years 10 & 11 they will receive times for their first two test
- 2) Further details about the return to school



## William Edwards School

The testing of pupils and the return to school is one of the most difficult logistical challenges schools have ever faced and I thank you for your support and patience with us as we return your children to school as quickly and as safely as possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Bell', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Simon Bell

Headteacher