

REF: tlb/RHDHT

Thursday 25th February 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the Headteacher's letter this week you will be aware that we are planning a phased return for all students in the week commencing Monday 8th March. The reason for the phased return is because there is an expectation by the government and Public Health England that all secondary school children will be tested upon their return to school prior to them going back into the classroom. Whilst testing is not compulsory we are hoping you will support us and provide consent for your child to be tested.

Following further clarification from the government yesterday, we will now need to test students before they return to the classroom. **With this in mind we have had to move the Year 9 return to school day to Friday 12th March and we apologise for this necessary change.**

We will also need to stagger the return of each respective year group on their day of return in order to manage the testing process. We will prioritise the students who travel to school by bus between 8 and 9am and then provide a set time for students to arrive for testing, based on their form groupings, covering periods 1, 2 and 3.

Students must only arrive on the school site at their specified time and will be directed to go to either the Main or Quay halls where they will wait until they are called forward for their first test. After their test, students will then wait in the sports hall, seated and socially distanced apart, to await the result. Once a negative test result is produced (30 minutes after testing) students will be able to attend their timetabled lesson. Students must not enter any classrooms or socialise with each other until a negative test is returned.

I am sure you appreciate this is a massive undertaking for a school with over 1700 students and we thank you and the students in advance of this return to school. I will email and post on the school social media outlets the specific times for year groups and form groups to return at the start of next week.

In order for each student to be tested we require your consent, therefore please fill in the Microsoft Office form using the following link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MjQhASu44EG1mk3b0Ny_WpfVqRDGbf1Ai4V71eY41vNUQk9BNEQwSUpNV0JYOEZYT1ZWVUw2TEhHWC4u

The deadline for consent is Tuesday 2nd March, 2021.

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. We can also offer additional support for any students with an EHCP or who have any anxiety about the testing.

Results (which take approximately half an hour) will be shared via the NHS Test and Trace system to the contact details you provide on the consent form.

Appreciating there may be some anxiety towards the testing process for our young people, we have produced a video which 'walks' you through the testing process by our NT qualified testing team and I would encourage all students to view this before coming into school. The video can be found at: <https://tretherras.net/nt-covid-testing-centre/>

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 as safely as possible.

Since January we have successfully been testing all staff twice a week and all the students of key workers who have attended school have also been tested. We now have 2 test sites set up in preparation of the mass testing programme at Tretherras from the 8th March. The guidance stipulates that all students should be tested 3 times on site using the Lateral Flow Device test. Our aim is to complete 3 tests for all students by Tuesday 24th March. Once a student has had 3 tests on site we will then provide each student with a Home Testing kit.

There are additional documents available on the website linked to the testing procedure should you wish to read these prior to giving consent.

If your child has tested positive for COVID within the last 90 days (since December 7th) they **do not** need to engage in the onsite Lateral Flow Testing. **Please inform the school via enquiries@tretherras.net if this is the case so we can update our internal records.**

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 with a positive result 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). We 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 yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

Programme of Student Testing at Newquay Tretherras

Monday 8th March

Year **13** only who are sitting exams on this day

All of Year **12** and year **13** vocational students Periods 4 and 5

All of Year **11** during periods 1, 2, 3

Tuesday 9th March

All other Year 13 students

All **10** students during periods 1, 2, 3

Wednesday 10th March

All year **8** students during periods 1, 2, 3

Thursday 11th March

All year **7** students during periods 1, 2, 3

Friday 12th March and following school days

All year **9** students during periods 1, 2, 3

Please remember that I will share with you next week the specific staggered times for each year group and form group for when we require your child in school during the week of the 8th March.

As explained in the Headteacher's letter, those students who are not in school during the first few days of the week beginning the 8th March will continue to be taught on-line through remote learning until their first day back.

Yours sincerely



MR R HIGGINSON
Deputy Headteacher