



# SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

We are delighted to be able to welcome back students from the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March. A school is not a school until it is full of young people busily going about their learning and interacting with their friends and teachers. In order for us to do this safely, and ensure we have tested all of those who have had consent, we will need to stagger the return of each year group. Therefore, students will be tested on their allotted day and time, and will return to school the following day after a negative test result. Here is the schedule:

Year	Test Date	Time Slot	Return to school date
13	Friday 5th March	12.30 - 15.30	Monday 8th March
11	Monday 8th March	9.00 - 12.00	Tuesday 9th March
12	Monday 8th March	12.30 - 15.30	Tuesday 9th March
7	Tuesday 9th March	9.00 - 12.00	Wednesday 10th March
10	Tuesday 9th March	12.30 - 15.30	Wednesday 10th March
8	Wednesday 10th March	9.00 - 12.00	Thursday 11th March
9	Wednesday 10th March	12.30 - 15.30	Thursday 11th March

Students will need to attend school on their specified day and time slot to complete their test. Once they have completed their test they are free to leave site and return home. Results will be confirmed within the hour. If your child has a negative test, they are free to return the following school day to resume face-to-face lessons.

Like you, we cannot wait to get students back to school. To be able to achieve the quickest and safest return as possible, we will require parents to bring their child to school at their allotted time. Parents are not allowed in the school building to assist their child. Staff are trained to support students with the process if needed. We appreciate that we are asking parents to bring their child to school for their test. The alternative option for us was to complete one-year group per day; getting students to return in this way would have meant that the whole school would not have been back until 16<sup>th</sup> March. We, like you, want the students back as quickly and as safely as possible, and our selected method allows us to do that. I also understand that some parents will have multiple trips due to having children in different years. Again, so that students are tested in line with the rest of their year group and subsequent testing can commence in accordance with a safe return, we hope you understand our reasoning for our testing schedule.

The process is straightforward, and students should be able to complete this independently. All students will have an assembly next week, where the process will be explained and students will have an opportunity to ask questions. There is an attachment with this letter, which shows the students how to administer the test.



Schools cannot insist that students are tested. If your family decide not to have your child tested, those students will return to school on the day that their specific year group returns for face-to-face lessons. For example, if your child is in Year 7, but have decided not to give consent, then your child will return on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, the day after the year group have been tested. The Government have made it clear that attendance is mandatory from the return date for your child.

During the period of testing there will be no live lessons online. Staff will be teaching onsite from the 8<sup>th</sup> March and will be preparing for the students' full return. However, teachers will set Assignments for their classes via teams. For example, if your child is in Year 10, they will have Assignments set from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March until Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, with them returning on the 10<sup>th</sup> March to face-to-face lessons.

Following the initial test, students are required to have two additional tests at school within the first two weeks back. They will have these tests 3-5 days apart. More details will follow confirming the dates of the second and third test.

I would like to reassure those families of vulnerable and key worker children that our provision will continue until their respective year groups return on their allotted day.

Following the three tests in school, students and staff will be supplied with LFD test kits to self swab and test themselves twice a week at home. Staff and students must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone, as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff and students should also share a positive result with school. We will share further details and advice when kits start arriving in school.

I know that face coverings is a subject that creates a significant divide of opinion. Our students are already required to wear a face covering in communal areas and as they move between lessons. This has been the case since returning to school in September. This measure will stay in place. The Government are now also recommending that students wear face coverings in classrooms, and we will be following this Government recommendation. This is to be reviewed at Easter. Some students will be exempt from wearing a face covering on health grounds. This applies to those who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical impairment or disability, illness or mental health difficulties
- speak to or provide help to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

I would respectfully request that even students who are exempt from a face covering on health grounds still wear one when moving between lessons and in communal areas. This would be for a limited time as they transition with 600 others to their next lesson.

Students do not need to wear a face covering outside or in PE lessons.

I will communicate again next week where I will remind students about the measures we have in school to keep everyone safe. There have been some modifications, so it is important that students are aware of these changes. I am conscious that there is a great deal of information to digest and you will be receiving further communications closer to the return date. I want all families to be clear about our plans and measures as it will help ensure that everyone understands their role in keeping themselves and each other safe.



In the meantime, please take this time to ensure that your child is ready for their return to school: restocking of equipment; making sure uniform and shoes still fit; washing out the various shades of hair dye and ready to get back to some kind of normal.

Yours faithfully,

Neale Pledger  
**Headteacher**

