

3rd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Asymptomatic Testing and Return to School

Following my letter of 24th February I can confirm arrangements for students' return to school starting Monday 8th March. I would like to thank those of you that have returned your consent forms; we have received over 1300 responses with a 92% consent rate.

Your patience in waiting for this confirmation has allowed us to form a plan that will allow nearly 4000 Lateral Flow Tests to be completed within ten days and that gets your children back to school as quickly but as safely as possible.

Clearly, with such a high volume of testing required we have had to look at alternatives to using our onsite provision or otherwise the whole process would take too long and delay the return of students. Fortunately we have been very well supported by Southend Local Authority who have offered us the support of the COVID Community Testing Centre based at the Shoeburyness Youth Centre adjacent to our school.

The principle of our plan is that for their first LFD test students will make their own way to the test centre from home and for their second and third test they will be taken to the test centre from school.

At all times Shoeburyness High School staff will be onsite at the test centre to support and offer reassurance to the students.

We have made arrangements for all students in years 11 and years 12 and 13 to receive their first test this Friday 5th March so that they can return to school on Monday 8th March.

Year 10 students will receive their first test on Monday 8th March allowing them to start school on Tuesday 9th March and each year group from there will receive their first test on subsequent days and start school the day after that with all students returning to school by Friday 12th March. This is summarised below:

<i>Year Group</i>	<i>Date of First Test</i>	<i>Date of Second Test</i>	<i>Date of Third Test</i>	<i>Date for School Return</i>
7	11 th March	16 th March	19 th March	12th March
8	10 th March	15 th March	18 th March	11th March
9	9 th March	14 th March	17 th March	10th March
10	8 th March	12 th March	17 th March	9th March
11	5 th March	10 th March	14 th March	8th March
12 & 13	5 th March	9 th March	13 th March	8th March

There is no requirement for you to book your own appointments, we will be organising appointments for all students to receive their first test within blocks of time that have been allocated to the school. We will start issuing these individual appointments from tomorrow starting with years 11, 12 and 13 first.

Full details of how the test procedures will run can be found in separate guidance titled ‘STUDENT COVID 19 TESTING ARRANGEMENTS STARTING 05.03.21’ that can be found on our website [here](#).

If your child is not participating in the asymptomatic testing they will need to remain at home and return to school with the rest of their year group according to the schedule provided.

For those students who are attending school already as part of the key worker provision they should continue to do so and school staff will supervise them in receiving their first test in line with their peer group.

Also, for some of our more vulnerable students we will be offering their LFD test here onsite at SHS in our smaller test centre.

Remote Learning Week Beginning 8th March

Whilst students remain at home waiting for the date of their first test and subsequent return to school they will continue to receive provision remotely.

However, please be aware of the following factors that might have an impact:

1. From Monday the 8th March all teachers will be back onsite delivering both face to face lessons and remote lessons according to their timetables. Due to the staggered timings of KS3 and KS4 lessons and the different locations of lessons and rooming across the school site the start to some lessons may be delayed. Where this impact is known in advance teachers will communicate with students via Edulink but otherwise we ask your child to wait for their teacher if they are a little late to start the lesson. It is also possible that a teacher may get held up following a break or lunch duty and will then need a little more time to get logged on to Teams.
2. On the days that a year group is having their first LFD test, classes for that year group will be severely disrupted and so for that one day only teachers will be asked to set assignments for students to complete independently. This will always be the last day before students return for face to face teaching.

If you have any queries regarding the testing process please contact the school office.

I will write to you again later in the week with the broader arrangements for the return to school.

Best wishes

Clare Costello