

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
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Dear Parents and Carers

We were delighted to hear the news from the Government on Monday that all students will be returning to school from Monday 8th March. It is likely that there will be a phased return in the first week and I will write with more detail relating to that later in the week.

Returning to school will not be without its challenges. One of the most pressing issues for us to address is the Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) of all students on three separate occasions early in the return to school. We have already been running these tests very successfully for those staff and students on-site since January. Expanding the capacity and workforce to undertake the increase in numbers to be tested is a major undertaking and we have to manage this at the same time as returning to a full on-site teaching timetable. For this reason, we may ask Year 11 and 13 to come into school before Monday 8th March to complete part of the lateral flow testing. For exam classes time is now an urgency, if I can minimise interruptions to learning in school this has to be a priority. Starting early will minimise some disruption. Again, I will write to confirm the details if this occurs.

Our first priority is to get parental consent for students to have the tests. Please can you complete the form, which contains further information about the LFT. **We would appreciate these being completed no later than midday Monday 1st March. We require a response from all parents please.** If you have more than one child you will have to complete multiple copies, it only takes a few minutes. If your child is over 16 they can make the own decision with your guidance.

[LFT Consent Form](#)

If your child develops symptoms, please do not wait for them to receive a Lateral Flow Test in school. You must follow the Government guidance and get a test.

[Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Our second challenge is to increase the LFT workforce. We are immensely grateful for the staff and volunteers who have overseen the daily on-site tests thus far. If you are able to volunteer to offer any time to support the expansion of the testing programme we would be extremely grateful.

We are looking for those with a clinical / medical / laboratory background or administration skills to join the volunteer workforce. There is compulsory training required along with safeguarding checks and we hope that those who volunteer can offer us at least 4 hours a day for at least 3 days between Thursday 4th March and Friday 19th March.

We would rota the team in three shifts: 8.00-11.00am, 10.00am-1.00pm and 12.00-4.00pm, to ensure we have good coverage between 8.00am and 4.00pm. The teams would be supported by school staff. If you are able to volunteer we would ask that you could manage at least 3 days over the period.

Please complete this form if you are able to volunteer.

[LFT Workforce Volunteer Form](#)

Thank you for your continued support at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr M Quinn', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr M Quinn
Headteacher