

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
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Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

13 August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

You may remember that I wrote to you all on 15th July with an overview of the plans for the return to school. The Government has put in place provision for the lateral flow testing (LFT) of all students on their return to school in September as part of the Stage 4 roadmap. We have included this in our risk assessment as part of returning to normal school activities.

I apologise for the length of this letter however it is important that all parents read this in detail. Organising the LFT in line with the extensive guidance for schools and ensuring some form of normality for students in school, presents a very significant logistical challenge. To help schools, the Government has permitted a phased start to the Autumn term, this was detailed in my previous letter.

Overview of the return to school.

Monday 30th August	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 31st August	<u>Year 7</u> - test then go home (school uniform not required) <u>Year 11</u> - test then go home (school uniform not required) <u>Sixth Form</u> - test then go home
Wednesday 1st September	Staff INSET School closed to students
Thursday 2nd September	<u>Year 8</u> - test then go home (school uniform not required) <u>Year 9</u> - test then go home (school uniform not required) <u>Year 10</u> - test and go home (school uniform not required)
Friday 3rd September	<u>Year 7</u> - test then stay in school for Induction Day (school uniform required) <u>Year 11</u> - test then go home (school uniform not required) <u>Sixth Form</u> - test then Sixth Form open for enquiries and students new to Oaklands to drop in

Monday 6th September	All students in school (full school uniform required) <u>Year 7</u> – second Induction Day (normal school hours) <u>Year 8</u> - test then stay in school for Induction Day (all to arrive at 8.50am) <u>Year 9</u> - test then stay in school for Induction Day (all to arrive at 11.00am) <u>Year 10</u> - test then stay in school for Induction Day (all to arrive at 1.00pm) <u>Year 11 and Sixth Form</u> - Induction Day (normal school hours)
Tuesday 7th September	Timetable starts for all

Attached to this letter, and on the school website from Monday 16 August ([Coronavirus - Latest Updates/Advice - Updated 02/07/2021 - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#)), you will find the specific detail indicating when your child has to be in school for their LFT test. It is important that they keep to this appointment. Unfortunately, due to the complexity of this process it is not possible to move appointment times. I appreciate asking parents to arrange for students to be dropped off at school during the day and pickup is a significant ask. We all have a part to play in the safe opening of school. Again, can I think you for your patience and forbearance. The successful completion of this process is a big step in ensuring we can continue to provide safe quality education and will also play our part in the battle against COVID-19.

If your child has the symptoms of COVID-19, please do not send them into school to receive a LFT as this could result in a significant number of people having to isolate. You must follow the Government guidance and get a PCR test. Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Do I have to give permission for my child to have a lateral flow test in school?

If you have previously given permission, this refers to the vast majority of students we do not need your permission again. If your child is new to the school or you have previously not given permission you will need to follow this link [LFT Consent Form](#). This form needs to be completed by Friday 27th August.

Where does my child go when they come in-to school to be tested?

We will write to all parents and students again before the start of term to confirm the drop off and collection logistics and where to go on site to receive a test.

What to do if you have previously had a positive PCR Test?

Over the course of the pandemic, we have kept records of all students where we have been notified of a positive PCR test. If your child has had a positive test in the last 90 days then the guidance confirms they do not need to undertake Lateral Flow Tests. They should therefore return to school on 6th September. If you have not already advised us your child has previously tested positive. We need their name, Tutor Group and date of the positive PCR test please. Please email this to covidtest@oaklandscatholicschool.org

My child is in a vulnerable category and has already received the vaccine do they still need a test?

The guidance states that they should still follow the LFT procedure it is clear that the vaccine does not provide complete immunity; there are cases of individuals that have been double jabbed who unfortunately have contracted COVID-19.

What happens if the Lateral Flow Test is positive?

If the test returns a positive result we will contact you. Your child will then have to take a PCR test which you will have to book, ([Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)) you will then be responsible for notifying test and trace if the PCR test is positive. You will then be advised of the isolation period.

What happens if the test is negative?

We will not notify parents of negative result. As I am sure you appreciate, making contact with up to 600 families a day would be an impossible undertaking.

What will happen after the first test?

On Tuesday 31st August and Thursday 2nd September all tested students will go home. On Friday 3rd September, Year 7 will remain in school all day. Year 11 and the Sixth Form will return home.

What if I have not given consent for the LFT?

If you have not given permission for the test, your child needs to come into school on Monday 6th September.

What will happen when there is a case of COVID-19 in school after students return in September?

The guidance on the management of confirmed cases in school has changed. I will write to you again before the start of term to confirm the details.

How can I play my part in stopping COVID-19 spreading?

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19. Do:

- Get vaccinated if you haven't already done so and are eligible. Vaccination is the best defence against COVID-19 causing anyone to become seriously unwell. If anyone who is eligible in your family or home have not yet been vaccinated, then they should arrange vaccination as soon as possible. This could also help you avoid having to self-isolate in the future. Information on how to arrange a vaccination can be found via ([Book or manage your coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#))
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues straight in the bin and wash your hands.
- Open windows/doors regularly to ventilate your home
- Be vigilant for COVID-19 symptoms and self-isolate when you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been advised to by Test and Protect.

Finally, we still require more volunteers for our LFT workforce. We are immensely grateful for the staff and volunteers who have overseen this last March. If you are able to volunteer to offer any time to support the programme in September 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 a short training requirement along with safeguarding checks and we hope that those who volunteer can offer us at least 4 hours a day week commencing Tuesday 31st August.

We would rota the team in three shifts to ensure we have good coverage. The teams would be supported by school staff. If you are able to volunteer. Please complete this form and we will get back to you.

[**LFT Workforce Volunteer Form**](#)

Thank you once again for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher