

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

2 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start by thanking parents for the support you have already shown for us trying to organise Lateral Flow Tests for the whole school community. This is very much appreciated.

Testing for Year 8 and Year 9

Testing continues with Year 8 and Year 9 on Wednesday 10th March. We have taken the decision to return to teaching as soon as possible and Year 8 will be the final group to receive the first test. I am very grateful to the staff and volunteers who have stepped up to make this possible.

Students in other years will be written to separately. Students have been scheduled across the day in blocks and by tutor group. It is important that students keep to time if we are going to manage this significant undertaking. If they do not arrive punctually, they will have to wait for the next available slot, which may not occur until later in the day.

The DfE Guidance states that students return to lessons once they have had their first negative Lateral Flow Test. We can manage a limited number of students waiting for LFT socially distanced and this has been factored into our plans.

Please refer to the table on the following page for the allocated times on Wednesday 10th March.

Upon arrival students should go directly to the Hall via the access ramp on the slope. This is explained on the information on the school website. Please follow this [link](#) for direction maps. Signage will also be posted around the school site. It is important that students who have been tested do not mix with those waiting for a test.

Once the test is complete your child then goes to their lesson. If you intend to bring your child to school for the test, please drop your child off on the main school drive and do not get out of your car. Throughout the day we will post hourly updates on the school website so you can monitor progress through the schedule. The school bus service will be running and students who normally travel to school by bus in groups 1, 2 and 3 can use this service.

Social distancing remains a priority on site, as does the use of hand sanitiser. Students are expected to follow hygiene procedures for their safety and that of staff. Students are expected to wear a mask whilst in school. More details will follow about the use of masks in school.

Allocated time slot for Wednesday 10th March (Years 8 and 9)

Number	Arrival time (sat in Hall at the time below)	Approximate departure time to lesson	Tutor group	Year
1	09:00	09:50	9CA	Year 9
2	09:20	10:10	9CL	
3	09:40	10:30	9DO	
4	10:00	10:50	9MG	
5	10:20	11:10	9MT	
6	10:40	11:30	9ST	
7	11:00	11:50	9TE	
8	11:20	12:10	9VP	
9	11:40	12:30	Catch up buffer	Catch up
10	12:00	12:50	8CA	Year 8
11	12:20	13:10	8CL	
12	12:40	13:30	8DO	
13	13:00	13:50	8MG	
14	13:20	14:10	8MT	
15	13:40	14:30	8ST	
16	14:00	14:50	8TE	
17	14:20	15:10	8VP	
18	14:40	15:30	Catch up buffer	Catch up

If your child has the symptoms of COVID-19, please do not send them into school to receive a Lateral Flow Test 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)

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 return to school on 10th March and they will be accommodated in the on-site provision until their class has had their tests. Year 9 students can join the provision at 9.00am; Year 8 can join the provision at 12.00noon. Please email provision@oaklandscatholicschool.org if you have not already advised us your child tested positive. We need their name, form class and date of the positive test please.

My child is in a vulnerable category and has already received the vaccine

The guidance states that they should still follow the LFT procedure

What happens if the Lateral Flow test is positive?

If the test returns a positive result your child will be isolated and you will be asked to collect your child as soon as possible. They will not be permitted to travel on public transport. This measure is necessary to contain the spread of the virus.

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 500 families a day would be an impossible undertaking. Students will be told of a negative test.

What will happen after the test?

Students will remain in the hall, socially distanced and supervised. No student must leave the hall area before they have been given the result from the test.

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 at the start of their year group test schedule. For Year 9 they need to be in by 9.00am. For Year 8 they need to be in school by 12.00noon. These students will join our on-site provision and be filtered into their classes over the morning or afternoon session.

I appreciate asking parents to arrange for students to be dropped off at school during the day is a significant ask. We all have a part to play in the reopening of schools. Again, can I think you for your patients and forbearance. The successful completion of this process is a big step in ensuring we can continue to provide quality education safely and will also play our part in the battle against COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr M Quinn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr M Quinn
Headteacher