



George Mitchell School

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1st April 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you to all our students and parents/carers for your support for the school since our return from lockdown. Thank you also for your support while we carried out regular Covid-19 testing at school in the last couple of weeks. Everyone's involvement has been fantastic, and we are so proud of the many pupils that have taken part. In line with recent government guidance, the testing programme has moved to twice-weekly testing for pupils at home, including during the Easter holidays. This is so we can continue to stop the spread of the virus in our school.

When pupils returned to school in the secondary in March, all pupils with parental consent were offered three Lateral Flow tests. This was aimed at catching any asymptomatic carriers of the virus and minimising the risk of infection in the school. Following the three tests on site, secondary pupils were given two home testing kits and asked to test at home twice weekly. Staff are taking Lateral Flow tests weekly too.

It is vital that secondary children keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term.

Staff and pupils will:

- continue to test twice a week at home (all those who are able to)
- report positive, negative or void results using the report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result portal
- test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back to find and isolate any positive cases

Where pupils or staff test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays using an LFD test more than 2 days since being in school, they will only need to inform the school if they will still be self-isolating when everyone returns to school. Staff, pupils, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

When children eventually return to school, please support us to stop the spread of coronavirus by:

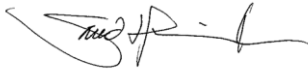
- Not sending your child into school if they have one of these symptoms
 - A new continuous cough
 - A temperature above 37.8
 - A loss of taste or smell
- Not sending siblings to school and getting a Covid test straight away
- Isolating family members for 10 days and informing the school immediately so we can carry out a risk assessment
- Always ensuring that your child has a mask on them if they are in years 7 or above. It is now mandatory for secondary children to wear a mask inside the building at all times unless they are exempt
- Discussing with your child the importance of not mixing with other bubbles



The end of term often means saying goodbye to colleagues as they move to other posts in other schools. This term we sadly say farewell to Ms Neal in year 3 Hazel who is leaving. After Easter we look forward to welcoming back Mr Murray who will be returning to the primary phase. In the Secondary, we say goodbye to Mr Harwood who has been covering Ms Topping's Music classes during her maternity leave.

I would like to wish all students and their families a safe and restful Easter holiday. As you will know, next term is very important for our students. Our Year 6 and Year 11 students, in particular, will be studying hard and making their final preparations for their end of year assessments. I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 19th April 2021, refreshed and ready to face new challenges.

Kind regards,



Saeed Hussain
Executive Headteacher

