

2nd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Here are the confirmed details for the phased return of students to face to face lessons within college. Thank you so much for your patience so far, and for the feedback following my bulletin home on Friday last week.

We have developed a testing plan that will enable us to carry out a Lateral Flow Device test to all students for whom consent has been given by the end of Tuesday 9th March. This will mean that all students will be in face to face lessons from Wednesday 10th March unless they are already self-isolating, or unless they return a positive LFD test.

Date	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	BLSF
Thursday 4th March	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete
Friday 5th March	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college
Monday 8th March	Live lessons taking place on teams	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college	Live lessons taking place on teams	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons
Tuesday 9th March	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college	Live lessons taking place on teams	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons
Wednesday 10th March	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons

Key worker provision

Students who are already regularly in college as part of our key worker provision will not need to follow the process as set out above. We will keep our provision open each day as normal until the students can join their peers when they return to college.

Testing routine

We need two actions from you, and we would be grateful if you could complete these as soon as you have read through this letter.

1. Please make sure you have completed the consent form for testing – this can be accessed on this link and needs to be completed if you give consent or if you do not give consent: [Consent form for testing](#)
2. We are using the parents' evening booking system to manage the appointments for COVID testing – can you please click on this link below to book the first test for your child which will take place on the

yellow shaded boxes in the diagram above. Bookings will open at 6pm on Tuesday 2nd March. <https://elycollege.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Unfortunately, it will not be possible for students to use the college bus to come into college for their first test appointment. It is important that students only come into college for their test. The test will take between 10 and 20 minutes, after which students will need to go straight home. We have set clear guidance on how parents can safely drive their children into college for testing in the FAQs attached to this letter. Once your child has been tested you will receive an email with a bar code. This might take several hours due to the volume of tests we will be processing. There will be clear instructions with the email on what to do with the barcode and once you have followed these instructions you will receive a text message with your child's result.

If your child tests negative, then they will be able to attend college on the day after their test. So, Year 8 will be able to attend face to face lessons in college from Wednesday 10th March.

We will then manage the remaining two tests to take place in college during the day as set out below:

Year group	Test 2	Test 3
BLSF	Wed 10 th	Mon 15 th
Year 11	Wed 10 th	Mon 15 th
Year 10	Thurs 11 th	Tues 16 th
Year 9	Fri 12 th	Wed 17 th
Year 8	Thurs 11 th	Tues 16 th
Year 7	Fri 12 th	Wed 17 th

If your child tests positive (Calum Semple, Professor of Outbreak Medicine and Child Health at the University of Liverpool, estimates that between 1.2 to 0.4 of students will test positive with the LFD assays¹) then we will be able to notify you as soon as possible. Your child will then need to book a PCR test with the drive-in centre and will need to isolate, as will the rest of the family, for 10 days.

Resources to support testing

There is a diagram at the end of this letter outlining what students can expect with their COVID test. I will be personally videoed whilst taking my COVID test this Thursday and will share this with students and parents so that they can see what the process entails. I've taken the test many times; I hope it will reassure you when I tell you that the swab on the back of the throat doesn't affect me, or others, in the slightest. However, I must be honest that I've yet to manage the nasal swab without making my eyes water – so the pressure is on!

Safety measures in college










There is only one new alteration to the existing safety control measures that were in place for the whole of the Autumn term and that is the requirement to wear face coverings in lessons as well as everywhere else in the building. This is a temporary measure and will be reviewed by Government over the Easter holidays as to whether it needs to remain in place.

I have produced a Frequently Asked Question document that hopefully will address all of the queries you might have regarding face coverings and testing, but I'd like to refer to the consent of face coverings and testing here as well.

Some of my staff are concerned about the speed with which students are returning to schools across the country. We should rightly be celebrating that over 20 million people have been vaccinated but very few of the staff within the college have been so far. There is understandable concern about the potential risks to a sudden shift from a national lockdown to mixing with 1,300 students albeit over a 3-to-5-day period (even with the reassurance testing will bring).

I know there may be some reluctance from within our community to support face coverings in the classroom and we have already been notified of some cases where consent for testing is not being given. Can I please ask that, where there is no medical reason for a covering not to be worn, or for a test not to be completed, parents support the testing and face covering requirement. No harm will come to any child or member of staff from wearing a face covering or taking a COVID test, but doing so will certainly give our community more confidence. I want everyone to feel that it is safe to resume face to face teaching and welcome our students back into college.

HOW TO GET YOUR COVID-19 TEST

-  YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE COMMENTED.
-  WHEN YOU ARRIVE, SOMEONE WILL BE THERE IF YOU NEED HELP.
-  YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU.
-  TO START YOU WILL BE ASKED TO OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDELY AND SAY 'MHHH' SO A SWAB CAN BE GENTLY RUBBED ON THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT.
-  AFTER 10 SECONDS, YOUR TESTING HELPER WILL CAREFULLY REMOVE THE SWAB AND GENTLY PLACE IT UP ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS.
-  THE SWAB WILL THEN BE TURNED GENTLY 5 TIMES, THIS TAKES ABOUT 10-15 SECONDS.
-  AFTER THIS, YOUR SWAB WILL BE REMOVED GENTLY AND PLACED IN A VIAL FOR TESTING.
-  YOU CAN ASK YOUR TESTING HELPER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE BUT THAT'S IT, YOU'RE ALL DONE AND YOUR TEST IS COMPLETE.
-  YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton
Principal