

Principal: Lesley Welsh



7 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

### **Final Update on the full reopening of school**

I hope this finds you and your family safe and well. We are really looking forward to the full reopening of school tomorrow and hope that you and your children feel the same. We have received some final guidance and news from the Department for Education which I wanted to share with you today.

Firstly can I please ask that, as this period of remote learning is now finished, all students return their devices to school on **Monday**? This will allow us to complete a full audit and check on devices, ensure we have sufficient devices to run our curriculum in school and then prioritise a set of devices to our Key Stage Four students to ensure they can revise at home. Please ensure that devices distributed during this and the last lockdown are returned and send all chargers and cases in with the device. Please ask students to carry devices carefully and we will ask for collection at various points throughout the morning.

Secondly, as you may be aware, NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. Households, childcare or support bubbles can collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- Through employers, if they offer testing to employees
- By collecting a home test kit from a local test site – you can find out where these are here: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- By ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Students in school whose families have given consent will have two tests during the week ahead before being provided with a home kit to conduct twice-weekly tests at home. More details about this will follow. Please note that we are not able to provide home test kits to families as we have only been sent enough for our students.

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Over the last week, we have been delighted by the number and conduct of students who arrived for their initial lateral flow test. As I am sure you can imagine, registration for these tests takes a considerable amount of time so do not be surprised if the official notification from the NHS arrives on the evening of your child's test; if there were a positive result we would contact you within 30 minutes of the test to advise on next steps.

Last week I shared the updated briefing with you and your children regarding the system of controls we have in place to help school be COVID-secure. Face coverings need to be worn in classrooms, corridors and communal areas. I would like to reinforce that students should wear face coverings as they approach school due to the crossover of bubbles near entrances. If you would like to review any of our COVID arrangements, these can be found here: <http://georgepindarschool.org/coronavirus-arrangements/>

Finally, the DfE has asked us to remind all families about safe travel to school. As a reminder:

- If you live a short distance from school, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so
- Avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble
- If you are using public transport to get to school, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey
- When you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don't forget to:
  - Wear a face covering unless you are exempt. It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey
  - Social distance where possible
  - Wash or sanitise your hands regularly
  - Be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

I would like to thank our entire school community for their support during this time. We are looking forward to being reunited tomorrow and striving for success in the months ahead.

Yours sincerely

**Lesley Welsh**  
**Principal**