



23rd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I hope that you and your family are well. I hope that you were able to make the best of an unusual half term and the warmer weather after the snow and ice disappeared last week.

As you will know, yesterday the Prime Minister [outlined](#) the government roadmap for easing lockdown restrictions in England from Monday 8th March including the reopening of schools. The Department for Education (DfE) has produced a blog to highlight the key information [here](#).

Reopening of school from Monday 8th March

I have written this letter to provide an initial response to the latest government guidance because we know that parents will want to be able to prepare for the reopening of school.

Attendance and testing

We are committed to keeping all members of our community safe and this means that we will ensure that we do not do anything that might risk mass transmission as the school reopens. The DfE has stated that **school attendance will be mandatory for all students** from Monday 8th March and that **schools will have discretion on how to phase the return of students over that week** to allow them to be tested on return. After an initial programme of 3 tests in school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. You will need to provide consent for your child to be tested in school and you can do this by clicking the link below and completing this online. You will need to complete this form for each child (if you have more than one child at the academy, you will need to fill in one for each sibling). We will need to plan carefully for this testing, so this form needs to be completed by the deadline of **Friday 26th February 2021, at 3pm**. There are some helpful instructions on how to do this, at the end of this letter.

Parental Consent for students in Y7-Y11 (under 16 years of age)

<https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/Covidmanager/p/CovidTesting/146379>

Consent for students in 6th Form or Y11 (over 16 years of age)

<https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/Covidmanager/p/CovidSelf/146379>

As a result of this guidance, it is clear that it will not be possible for all students will return to school on Monday 8th March and we will begin preparing a phased return for year groups based on the principle that each group will be provided with a test as part of their return to school. I can reassure you that we will communicate a timetable for year groups by **Wednesday 3rd March** (next week) so that you know how when your child will be returning to school.

Clinically vulnerable staff and students

The latest guidance is that Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) staff and students should be supported to work remotely and should not attend school at present. We have previously contacted parents/carers of any CEV students and discussed their needs. Please contact us directly if you have concerns and you have not already spoken to a member of staff.

Face coverings

On their return, students will be expected to wear face coverings when moving around the site and in corridors as they had been before the lockdown. **In addition, the DfE have stated that face coverings should be worn in classrooms.** This will not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise, for example in PE lessons. We will not expect students to wear face coverings in lunch venues or in outdoor areas. This means that students will continue to wear a clean, washable face covering on their return to school.

Uniform and appropriate clothing on cold days

To reflect the updated guidance, teachers will continue to ensure that their classrooms have good airflow and ventilation to reduce the risk of transmission. On cold days, students should be reminded to wear suitable layers of clothing (e.g. base layers under uniform and a school jumper). Teachers will not allow students to wear their coats inside classrooms. **Please note that all students will be expected to attend school in full uniform.**

Awarding of qualifications for summer 2021 examination series

We are expecting an announcement on the outcome of the awarding of qualifications by Thursday of this week. We will write to you as soon as we have these details about how we will apply these here and what this means for you. **It is essential that both year 11 and year 13 continue to undertake revision and preparation for mock examinations** as it is likely that we will conduct these in classroom- based settings shortly after you have return to school.

Reflection

I know that some families will feel anxious about the return to school. We can offer the reassurance that we are now experienced in managing the risks presented by coronavirus. Since the start of term, we have responded immediately to any identified positive cases or any children or staff with symptoms to reduce the risk of transmission. We continue to use a detailed trust-wide procedure to identify contacts and move quickly to ensure that close contacts are sent home to isolate, this. I can reiterate my commitment to you that if it is necessary, we will not hesitate to extend to partial or even full closure if we feel this is necessary to protect our community.

We are confident in our risk management processes and we are updating our risk assessment in relation to the updated guidance so that we can give parents clarity about our full reopening procedures. This information will also be included in the letter that we will send next week.

I want to assure you that we are all committed to reopening the school and welcoming your child back. I do want to express my sincere thanks for all of the fabulous warmth and support offered by parents to our teachers and support staff. We are very lucky to benefit from your support. Your words of encouragement have sustained us during the lockdown, thank you for taking the time.

Yours faithfully,

Darren Turner
Executive Principal



Guidance for Parents, Pupils aged 16 and over on how to provide Consent for Covid-19 testing

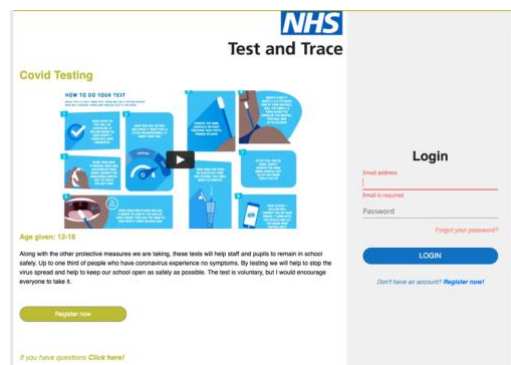
Step 1: Use the link provided to register yourself in the School Screener Portal

Parental Consent for students in Y7-Y11 (under 16 years of age).

<https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/Covidmanager/p/CovidTesting/146379>

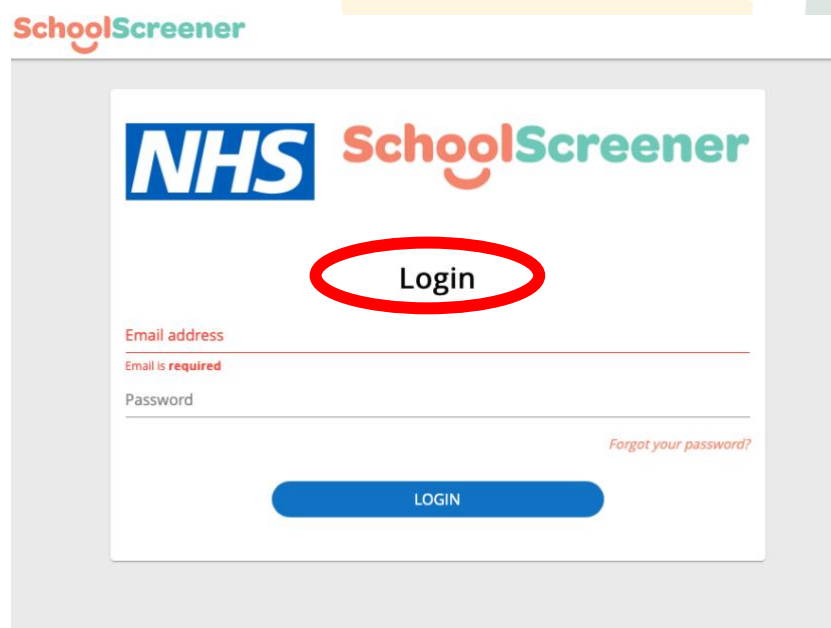
Consent for students in 6thForm or Y11 (over 16 years of age)

<https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/Covidmanager/p/CovidSelf/146379>



- Click on the link, select register now and enter the details requested.
- You will be emailed a link to confirm your email address. If you do not receive this email to your inbox, please also check your junk folder
- Follow this link and set a password. Your account is set up

Step 2: Visit portal.schoolscreener.com and give consent



- Enter your email address and password and click login.
- You will now see a box titled “Covid Testing”. Click on “Fill in the questionnaire form”
- Make sure the correct school is selected in the “Create a Submission” box, and then click Next.

- On the next page, enter all of the requested information about the person who will be tested: either yourself or your child. Once this is complete, click Save and Continue
- You will then be provided with information about the Covid Testing. Once you have read this, please record your consent at the bottom of the page. Then add your name and click Submit.

Step 3: If you have another child at the school, repeat the process.

- Return to the School Screener Homepage and click on the Add another child link
- Repeat steps 1 and 2 for this child