



26 February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will know, following the email from Mrs Veal yesterday, we are looking forward to welcoming students back to school Wednesday 10 March. The Department for Education is allowing schools to test in advance of a full return and we are taking advantage of this opportunity to reduce the potential impact of testing on the curriculum once students have fully returned.

To facilitate the smooth and safe return of all students, we ask that parents and carers please pre-book appointments for testing at the school on three allocated days from Monday 1 March to Tuesday 9 March. These days are not interchangeable as we have to do it in a manner that meets Government expectations. This schedule will allow us to test all students with consent, before we fully re-open. When you book an appointment, you will only be given the option of making appointments on the days that your child may attend, so you do not need to worry about working out your own testing schedule. For your information, we have roughly divided the school in half according to surnames. One half will have three particular days allocated and the other half will have a different three days allocated. We regret, we cannot change allocated days for students.

It is not a pre-requisite for students to be tested before returning to school. Engagement in testing remains entirely voluntary for students but we would strongly encourage you to support this in order to maximise safety for the whole school community. Those who do not consent to testing will be allowed to return to school with all other students on Wednesday 10 March. By virtue of booking you are giving your consent and this supersedes any consent you may have previously given.

We are sure you will have lots of questions, so for ease of communication I have included them in the format of 'Frequently Asked Questions' below:

How do I book my child's appointments?

We will be using our parents evening booking system. The booking system will be open from 12 noon on Friday 26 February. Parents and carers can access the booking system via the Quick Links on the college website.

<https://southdartmoorcommunitycollege.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Parent and carers must book one appointment per day - a total of three appointments.

Where do I go when I arrive for my appointment?

Parents and carers will be asked to arrive ten minutes before the allocated appointment time. Please park in the Place Lane carpark. Signage will direct students to the testing centre. We would ask all parents and carers to wait in the car whilst their child receives their test. However, if your child is particularly anxious, one parent may accompany him/her, as long as all measures for students are also followed by the parent as well and as long as they stay together throughout.

What happens during the appointment?

Students will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The Lateral Flow Devices are easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. It should take less than 3 minutes. Please read the attached guidance sheet before arriving for your appointment.

Cont/d

What happens after my appointment?

Students will return, using the one-way system, to waiting parents and carers in the carpark. They are free to leave immediately. As the country will still be in lockdown, students must not arrange to meet friends or hang around with them before or after. Students and parents/carers are permitted to leave home to take the test as it comes under the 'attending medical appointments' category in the guidance. No students/parents will be allowed on any other part of the site.

What if I have a positive result?

If a student tests positive on a Lateral Flow device, you will receive a phone call from us within 30 minutes of the test result. Students will be asked to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. This is then likely to result in a period of 10 day self-isolation.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void, students who test negative for all three tests will be able to return to school on Wednesday 10 March. We will NOT contact you if your child tests negative.

What if a student has been in close contact with someone in college who tests positive?

Students who have been in close contact will be notified by the school. Close contacts will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

What if I develop symptoms?

The testing programme at South Dartmoor and Atrium is for people with no symptoms. If you develop symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) you must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

If you have any further questions or you need to contact us about any aspect of the testing process, please email dvile@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk and jdistin@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk

Thank you in advance for your support and understanding over the coming days and weeks. We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Wednesday 10 March.

Best wishes

D Vile

Dan Vile
Assistant Head teacher

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