

Orchard Mead Academy

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Friday 26th February 2021

Principal: Mr I Patel

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Ref: Parent/ Carer March 2021 School Reopening

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and in good health. Please see below key messages for the return of all children to school in the week commencing Monday 8th March. A further breakdown and expectations will be sent at the beginning of next week.

The government has now set out its plan for the return of all pupils to schools and colleges as part of the roadmap for leaving lockdown. Rapid testing in schools will continue to remain a vital part of the Government's plan to suppress this virus. Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD)s will support the return to face-to face education by helping to identify people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.

From week commencing Monday 8th March, we will be offering students three tests on the school site, as per the government advice.

Although testing remains voluntary it is strongly recommended. It will help to keep all students, families and the community safe by the swift identification of the virus and prevent its further spread.

If you have not already given consent for your child, you can do so here by

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dwVkuAeh40yLyFu5DKutdR0W_LkG8rVli65TafqtQSZUMko4RUFLT0JaSVIQMDhCMEpWOFg3RVRaNi4u

Pupils will be asked to self-swab at the on-site testing area and members of trained staff will be on site to help advise your child on how to administer the test.

Some key points for test 1:

- Students should report straight to the sports hall and await further instruction
- Parents can bring their child to the school but will not be allowed to go into the test centre with their child
- Masks must be worn inside at all times
- The students must maintain social distancing inside and outside of the test centre at all times
- No recording is permitted inside the test centre
- Please keep to your time slot – A text message will be sent out the day before giving you an allocated time slot of 1 hour. Students should continue with remote learning from home before and after the

test where applicable. Therefore students should come straight to school and also go straight home after testing

- Once test has been completed, students have the option to stay on site for 30 minutes to collect result. Alternatively, the school will make contact with parents only if the test result is positive.
- Individuals with a positive test result will need to self-isolate in line with the guidance for households with coronavirus infection.
- Those with a negative LFD test result can attend school the next day as per normal
- If you have any concerns on the day, please speak to a member of staff on site

ARRANGEMENTS FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS		
DATE FOR COVID TESTING IF YOUR CHILD HAS CONSENTED TO DO THE TEST	Test 1	Wednesday 3rd March Students who have consent to be tested will be required to come to school. All other students should continue to learn from home.
	Test 2	Monday 8th March (students to be removed from lessons to go for a test and then return back to lesson).
	Test 3	Thursday 11th March (students to be removed from lessons to go for a test and then return back to lesson).
DATE OF FIRST DAY BACK AT SCHOOL FOR ALL YEAR 9 STUDENTS.	Monday 8th March 2021 Entrance and exit - Sports Hall Gate Student arrival on site : 8.50am Lesson start time : 9.00am Lesson finish time: 3.15pm Student's arrival time and punctuality is extremely important to prevent cross contamination between year groups.	

*Provision for Key Worker and Vulnerable children will continue on site from Monday 8th March for all year groups



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Home testing

After the initial programme of three tests in school, students will be supplied with LFD test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home. Students must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. **Students should also share their result, whether void, positive or negative, with us to help with contact tracing.**

Students with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to arrange a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result if the test was done at home. You can go to any of the Covid-19 testing sites to get this test done by booking an appointment online, [Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-nhs-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus)

Please also find attached reminders around school uniform and learning expectations. A further letter will follow next week around our systems of control and updated risk assessment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email info@orchard-tmet.uk or call the school on 01162413371

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school.

Best regards

Imtiaz Patel
Principal