

CATCH IT! BIN IT! KILL IT!



Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I am writing to share with you how Oxford Spires Academy will be approaching the wider reopening of schools which in line with national guidance will begin on Monday 8th March. We appreciate that most students have been working remotely since January. We are keen to provide the best transition back into school for all students and we want to bring back all of year the groups as quickly and safely as possible.

Return to School- The Government and Department of Education has confirmed that schools may start Lateral Flow testing students in the week prior to Monday 8 March. As you can see from the grid below, we are utilising this window to offer the first test to all of our students in Years 8,10,11,12 & 13 on Wednesday 3 March, Thursday 4 March and Friday 5 March.

We have also put in place a short 3-day window to allow a phased return and all students will return from **Wednesday 10 March**. Extended tutor sessions will allow us to welcome our students back into school and provide them with all of the key information that they need. Students will attend an extended morning session with their tutors on the day that they return. **Please see the phased return plan below;**

| Year Group | Testing Day Test 1 | Return Date (Face to Face lessons) | Provisional date Test 2 | Provisional date Test 3 |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Year 12 & 13 | Wednesday 3 March | Monday 8 March Start 10.00am | Monday 8 March | Thursday 11 March |
| Year 11 | Thursday 4 March | Monday 8 March Start 9.15am | Tuesday 9 March | Friday 12 March |
| Year 10 | Friday 5 March | Monday 8 March Start 9.30am | Wednesday 10 March | Monday 15 March |
| Year 8 | Friday 5 March | Monday 8 March Start 9.45am | Wednesday 10 March | Monday 15 March |
| Year 7 | Monday 8 March | Tuesday 9 March Start 8.30am | Thursday 11 March | Tuesday 16 March |
| Year 9 | Tuesday 9 March | Wednesday 10 March Start 8.30am | Friday 12 March | Wednesday 17 March |

(Further detailed information, timings and support will be provided to students and parents next week)

Rapid Testing: Since the start of January we have been successfully testing students and staff who are in school. We know that some of our more vulnerable children will find this process daunting to begin with and we will work with parents and carers to support them through it. Our risk assessment suggests that this will be the best way to identify asymptomatic cases in our school community and allow us to return as safely as possible from Monday 8th March.

Before moving to home testing, each student will be offered 3 tests on-site, each test will need to 3 to 5 days apart. Testing for all students will take place from Monday 01 March- Friday 19 March. Home testing will start after the week beginning Monday 15 March. After the 08 March, the testing plan has been designed to minimise impact within the day to day timetable and on site provision.

Thank you for returning your consent forms for your children to participate in the testing. We have a high level of consent and I am really pleased that so many students will receive the Lateral Flow Tests.

If you still wish to complete your consent form, please visit the 'FORMS' section in your ParentMail.

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First Test Guidance: We have put in place clear guidance for students when they are attending the school for their first test, please see below and share this with your children.

- To minimise the number of students within the test site at any one time students have been organised into their tutor groupings (Maximum 30 students).
- Each tutor group has been allocated a 30-minute appointment window and students should only come into school during their allocated time slot.
- All students must come to the front entrance gate where they will be provided with further instructions.
- Students must wear facial coverings unless they are exempt and maintain social distancing on their way to and from school and when on the school site.
- Students must go straight home after their test and will receive a school email if they have received a negative result.
- Parents will be called by the school if there is a positive or void test. Students who receive a positive test will need to isolate for 10 days.
- Students should return to face to face education following their first negative result. Students not undergoing testing should attend school in line with our phased return arrangements and return with their year group.

Test Appointments: Your child will receive an email and will be invited to attend a testing appointment. They have been allocated a 30-minute window and will come into school with their tutor group. It is important that all students arrive to their testing appointment in the time slot they are given. Thank you for your support with this.

Year 11: Your Sixth Form interviews are already scheduled across this week. To enable you to attend both appointments we have put in place an additional slot for Year 11 into the timetable from 1.00pm-2.00pm on the 04 March. Please look carefully at the timetable below and if you have any questions please do contact us.

First Test Timetable

| Wednesday 3rd March | | | | Thursday 4th March | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Year 12 | | Year 13 | | 11B / 11 E | | 11S / 11 T | |
| 8.30-10.30 | | 11.00-2.00 | | 8.30-10.30 | | 11.00-1.00 | |
| 12B | 8.30-9.00 | 13B | 11.00-11.45 | 11B1 | 8.30-9.00 | 11S1 | 11.00-11.30 |
| 12E | 9.00-9.30 | 13E | 11.45-12.30 | 11B2 | 9.00-9.30 | 11S2 | 11.30-12.00 |
| 12S | 9.30-10.00 | 13S | 12.30-1.15 | 11E1 | 9.30-10.00 | 11T1 | 12.00-12.30 |
| 12T | 10.00-10.30 | 13T | 1.15-2.00 | 11E2 | 10.00-10.30 | 11T2 | 12.30-1.00 |
| | | | | | | Additional Slot YR11 | 1.00-2.00 |

| Friday 5th March | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 10B / 10 E | | 10S / 10 T | | 8B / 8 E | | 8S / 8 T | |
| 8.30-10.30 | | 10.30-12.30 | | 12.30-2.30 | | 2.30-4.30 | |
| 10B1 | 8.30-9.00 | 10S1 | 10.30-11.00 | 8B1 | 12.30-1.00 | 8S1 | 2.30-3.00 |
| 10B2 | 9.00-9.30 | 10S2 | 11.00-11.30 | 8B2 | 1.00-1.30 | 8S2 | 3.00-3.30 |
| 10E1 | 9.30-10.00 | 10T1 | 11.30-12.00 | 8E1 | 1.30-2.00 | 8T1 | 3.30-4.00 |
| 10E2 | 10.00-10.30 | 10T2 | 12.00-12.30 | 8E2 | 2.00-2.30 | 8T2 | 4.00-4.30 |
| | | | | | | | |

| Monday 8th March | | | | Tuesday 9th March | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 7B / 7E | | 7S / 7T | | 9B / 9E | | 9S / 9T | |
| 8.30-10.30 | | 10.30-12.30 | | 8.30-10.30 | | 10.30-12.30 | |
| 7B1 | 8.30-9.00 | 7S1 | 10.30-11.00 | 9B1 | 8.30-9.00 | 9S1 | 10.30-11.00 |
| 7B2 | 9.00-9.30 | 7S2 | 11.00-11.30 | 9B2 | 9.00-9.30 | 9S2 | 11.00-11.30 |
| 7E1 | 9.30-10.00 | 7T1 | 11.30-12.00 | 9E1 | 9.30-10.00 | 9T1 | 11.30-12.00 |
| 7E2 | 10.00-10.30 | 7T2 | 12.00-12.30 | 9E2 | 10.00-10.30 | 9T2 | 12.00-12.30 |
| | | | | | | | |

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Students will continue to see the systems and safety approaches in place from the Autumn term. As students return from the 8th March they will also experience some changes and we wanted to share these with you ahead of their return to school.

Timetable developments- We want to continue to ensure that all students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. From Monday the 8th March there will be some changes to the school day, timings and the timetable and our students will see new arrangements for lunch, increased access to some specialist teaching rooms and some will see additional lessons and interventions. This will be shared with students in their tutor sessions on the first day back. Parents will receive additional information about this over the next week.

Use of Face Coverings- The use of face coverings in school has now been extended for staff and students to all indoors areas where social distancing cannot be maintained. When students are in lessons they will now be asked to wear face coverings unless they have a medical exemption. We will be working with our students on their return to support them with this additional safety measure and realise that this may be more difficult for some students. We will work closely with families where there is a concern. Please support us and make sure that your child has access to their own mask and individual bottle of hand sanitiser.

As before, it is so important that students who are unwell must not come to school. We would ask all parents and carers to be very alert and please check with your child each morning. The previous guidance encouraged children to come to school if they were mildly unwell, this can no longer be the case. Equally, if anyone in the household is unwell with the key symptoms then we do need to ask you to follow advice and for the whole family to self-isolate and get tested. We will always support access to remote education if this is the case and absences for these reasons will never be penalised.

We understand that a small group of children may not be able to return to school due to health concerns. If your child is unable to return on their scheduled day, please notify Mrs Kadir our attendance officer.

We are very much looking forward to having our whole school community back with us. We know that this current lockdown period has been especially hard for many of our young people. Please take time to read this update carefully, there is a large amount of information to take in, but we will continue to work together and support you and your child at this time. I thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Best wishes

Marianne Blake