



Mr G Panayiotou – Headteacher
Mr John McNichol – Chair of Governors

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Our Ref: GP/NF

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope this letter finds you and your family well. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we collectively handle the challenges posed by Covid-19.

You will no doubt have seen the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday that schools will reopen to all pupils from Monday 8th March, with lateral flow testing available for all pupils. The Government has given secondary schools discretion as to how to phase the return to school over the course of that week in order to support the initial testing programme.

We are very much looking forward to having all pupils back and want to assure you that, as has been the case throughout the coronavirus pandemic, we will ensure that the academy is as safe as possible. Although we do not yet have full details to share with you about the opening of the academy, there are a number of specific points about the full return to school that we wanted to set out in this letter.

Lateral Flow Testing

As part of the safe return to face to face education, in order to break the chains of transmission, the Department for Education have requested that schools administer lateral flow tests for pupils to identify any pupils who might have coronavirus but do not show any symptoms.

- Lateral flow tests are conducted in the same way as a PCR test. Pupils swab their tonsils and nose and the swab is then tested by our testing team, with results available within 30 minutes. Lateral flow tests are less accurate than PCR tests but they do help to pick up people who have coronavirus who are asymptomatic.
- Pupils will be tested three times at school in the first two weeks back. After the first two weeks back at school, pupils will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home (details of this to follow).
- Pupils will be allowed to attend face to face lessons after their first negative result.
- Pupils will only be tested if we have received consent from parents.
- Parents and carers will be required to report results to NHS test and trace and to the academy for any tests completed at home. More details on this to follow.

What if my child tests positive

If a pupil tests positive using an in school lateral flow test, they will not be allowed to attend face to face lessons and must self-isolate, along with their household, for 10 days.

Will my child be able to attend school if they are not tested?

Yes, all pupils will return to school for face to face teaching from the week beginning the 8th March regardless of if they have a lateral flow test. More details to follow.

Parental Consent

To allow us to plan the return of pupils, it is important that we know how many pupils will be taking lateral flow tests. To give consent for your child to take part in the testing system, please complete the questions on the link below by 7.30pm on Thursday 25th February:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=p5E3uwQAMk6DoDT-y8kpvxbYUfn-qOxBtbs64L-bQu5UMzJVNE1LUUhSRFIJOUdBTFVMUTRFVDI3WC4u>

Please only complete the above form if you consent to your child administering the lateral flow tests as set out above. Pupils who have been attending the childcare provision and have already administered lateral flow tests do not need to complete the form.

We hope that you have found this initial letter regarding the reopening of school useful, we will write in due course with specific details about the times and dates that pupils in each year group will return to school. We will also update parents/carers about the control measures that will be in place to ensure that all pupils and staff can return safely.

If you have any questions regarding lateral flow testing that have not been addressed in this letter, please contact admin@castlefordacademy.com.

Yours faithfully



Mr G Panayiotou
Headteacher

Yours faithfully



Mrs D Cook
Associate Headteacher

