



The Featherstone Academy

23 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, due to the likelihood of increased social mixing during the summer holidays, secondary schools are required to offer their students two on-site lateral flow device Covid tests at the beginning of the new autumn term as a one-off event, similar to the return in March 2021. Schools have been given the discretion to phase the return of their students throughout the week in order to facilitate coronavirus mass testing, and ensure that all students are able to have supervised tests before they return. Students will then be provided with LFD home testing kits and will be asked to continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Phased Return of Students

Whilst we would ideally like to welcome all students back as originally planned, the requirements for testing and the size of our student population means that we will need to phase the return of students to school from Tuesday 31st August. We will spend the last few days of the summer holiday setting up the testing site in the academy Drama Hall and training additional staff so we can deliver over 450 tests in 5 school days to meet government expectations.

Our planning below is based on us being able to deliver over 150 tests per day and our intention is to phase the return as follows, with students returning the **day they have had their second negative result:**

Tuesday 31 August	11:00 – 12:00	11.1	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	12:00 – 13:00	11.4	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	13:00 – 14:30	11.2 + 11.3	Test 1 – Take test and go home
Wednesday 1 September	INSET DAY – School not open to students		
Thursday 2 September	08:30 – 09:30	7.1	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	09:30 – 10:30	7.2	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	10:30 – 11:30	7.3	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	11:30 – 13:00	10.1 + 10.3	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	13:00 – 14:30	10.2 + 10.4	Test 1 – Take test and go home
Remote learning begins for Year 8, 9, 10 & 11			
Friday 3 September	08:30 – 9:30	11.1 + 11.4	Test 2 – Take test and go home
	09:30 – 10:30	11.2 + 11.3	Test 2 – Take test and go home
Remote learning for Years 8, 9, 10 & 11			
Monday 6 September	08:30 – 09:30	9.1	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	09:30 – 10:30	9.2	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	10:30 – 11:30	9.3	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	11:30 – 12:30	8.1	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	12:30 – 13:30	8.2	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	13:30 – 14:30	8.3	Test 1 – Take test and go home
	Year 11 students return to school at 8:15 until 14:30		
Remote learning for Years 8, 9 & 10			

Tuesday 7 September	08:30 – 09:30	7.1	Test 2 – Take test and go home
	09:30 – 10:30	7.2	Test 2 – Take test and go home
	10:30 – 11:30	7.3	Test 2 – Take test and go home
	11:30 – 13:00	10.1 + 10.3	Test 2 – Take test and go home
	13:00 – 14:30	10.2 + 10.4	Test 2 – Take test and go home
Year 11 students normal school day Remote learning for Years 8, 9 & 10			
Wednesday 8 September	08:30 – 09:30	9.1	Test 2 – Take test and go home
	09:30 – 10:30	9.2	Test 2 – Take test and go home
	10:30 – 11:30	9.3	Test 2 – Take test and go home
	11:30 – 12:30	8.1	Test 2 – Take test and go home
	12:30 – 13:30	8.2	Test 2 – Take test and go home
	13:30 – 14:30	8.3	Test 2 – Take test and go home
Year 7 start school at 08:25, and finish at 14:30 Year 10 return to school at 08:15 until 14:30 Year 11 students normal school day Remote learning for Years 8 & 9			
Thursday 9 September	Years 8 & 9 return to school at 08:25 until 14:30 Years 7, 10 & 11 normal school day		

For the first test, Year 8-11 students have been allocated the above time slot for their appointment and will be sent a reminder to their academy email address in line with the dates above, parents will be copied in. Year 7 student's appointment time slots will be sent to parents only. On the day of their first test, students will only be required to attend the academy in time for their appointment time slot; they do not need to wear uniform for their test. They will leave directly after the test and **will only be informed** if the result is **positive**.

For the second test students have also been allocated a time, as indicated above, an email will be sent by email. Second tests have been scheduled to take place 3-5 days after the first test in line with government guidance.

NB: Where families and students have chosen not to take part in testing, they will attend school in line with the second test phased return, alongside their year group peers.

The Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing Required Consent

Please note, as previously, we will need consent for the testing to take place with your child and will not conduct any testing without it. In the first instance, following the current guidance from the DfE, we will carry over the consent status we have for your child from their last test in March. Should you wish to change the consent status for your child, then please contact admin@featherstone.academy so we can update our records. New Year 7 students will be sent a consent form via email. Please be aware of the guidance for students who have tested positive for coronavirus within 90 days of the tests should not be retested in September.

This testing programme is for students with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

If on the day of testing a student does not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of, or during the test.

Testing over the summer

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, others will remain, and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances.

Over the summer, colleagues and secondary school students should continue to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open, such as summer schools and out of school activities based in school settings. We will only provide tests for twice weekly asymptomatic testing for students and colleagues over the summer period if they are attending summer camp. However, testing will still be widely available over the summer and kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online.

Key Changes to The Operational Guidance for Schools:

The DfE has published new [operational guidance](#) for schools and the summary of the most significant changes and the impact on the academy are as follows:

- Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and the academy will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Contacts from the academy will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.
- From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. This is encouraged.
- The academy system for the collation of results will be suspended on Friday 23rd July 2021 and reinstated on 31st August 2021.
- After the end of the summer term, it will no longer be necessary to keep students in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that students' lessons will not be zoned in year groups from September and all teaching will return to specialist areas.

Catering Service

The catering service in the academy will be in operation from Monday 6th September 2021.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact admin@featherstone.academy

We appreciate the late change to arrangements for the start of the term may be disruptive and we appreciate your support in ensuring we maintain the safety of our students and colleagues.

Thank you for your continued support, have a lovely summer.

Yours sincerely



Wesley Bush
Principal