



Ref: JDE/era

Date: 1 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are well. We are really looking forward to getting everyone back to school, and we have been working very hard to ensure we are all ready to welcome your child as quickly as possible from 8 March. I am sure that you will appreciate that there is a lot to do so that everyone is able to return safely, and I would ask you to read the following information carefully. There is a lot to cover, and as always we rely on your support to help things run smoothly.

When will my child return to school?

The return dates are staggered by year group, as follows. We have arranged for all students to complete their first test before returning to lessons. This letter explains everything in detail.

Year	Test 1 - Test & Go	Return to full lessons (after negative test)	Test 2	Test 3
7	Saturday 6 March 8.45am-2.30pm	Wednesday 10 March	Thursday 11 March 3.00pm-5.30pm	Tuesday 16 March 3.00pm-5.30pm
8	Monday 8 March Buses: 8.30am-10.00am Others: 10.00am-2.30pm	Wednesday 10 March	Friday 12 March 3.00pm-5.30pm	Wednesday 17 March 3.00pm-5.30pm
9	Friday 5 March Buses: 8.30am-10.00am Others: 10.00am-2.30pm	Wednesday 10 March	Wednesday 10 March 3.00pm-5.30pm	Monday 15 March 3.00pm-5.30pm

10	Thursday 4 March Buses: 8.30am-10.00am Others: 10.00am-2.30pm	Tuesday 9 March	Tuesday 9 March 3.00pm-5.30pm	Saturday 13 March 8.45am-2.30pm
11	Wednesday 3 March Buses: 8.30am-10.00am Others: 10.00am-2.30pm	Monday 8 March	Monday 8 March 3.00pm-5.30pm	Saturday 13 March 8.45am-2.30pm
12	Thursday 4 March Buses: 8.30am-10.00am Others: 10.00am-2.30pm	Tuesday 9 March	Tuesday 9 March 3.00pm-5.30pm	Saturday 13 March 8.45am-2.30pm
13	Wednesday 3 March Buses: 8.30am-10.00am Others: 10.00am-2.30pm	Monday 8 March	Monday 8 March 3.00pm-5.30pm	Saturday 13 March 8.45am-2.30pm

Please note: On Friday 5 March there will be no provision for vulnerable/key worker students.

Does my child have to do the LFD testing?

The LFD tests are designed to pick up people without symptoms who may be spreading the virus. In order to limit the spread of the virus, and keep transmission rates low, the Government strongly recommends that all students take the LFD tests. For children under 16, parental consent is required. Please ensure that you have completed the consent form before your child comes in for their test. You can complete a Google consent form by clicking [here](#), or access a PDF version which can be printed and completed by hand, [here](#). Full information about the consent form, and the privacy notice concerning the use of data, can be found by clicking [here](#). If you need any help completing the consent form, please contact the school office at tss-office@swale.at.

What if my child has had Covid-19?

If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days they should NOT take the LFD test. Please let us know via the School Office. It would be helpful if you could let us know the exact date of the positive result.

THE FIRST TEST - 'TEST and GO'

What does 'Test and Go' mean?

All students' first test will be a 'Test and Go'. This means they will come into school, take a LFD test, and go home immediately afterwards. Provided this test is negative, they will return to school on the date shown in the table. Any student with a positive test **will need to isolate at home for 10 days**. They cannot return until their temperature has been normal for at least 48 hours. Please see the 'RESULTS' section below for details of how you will receive results.

My child normally catches the bus from the Island. How will they do Test and Go?

We have arranged for the Travelmasters buses to do their normal morning pick-up on Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th and Friday 5 March. On Monday 8 March, Year 8 students should travel on their buses in the morning as normal and there will be a special bus to take them home after their test. Once students have been tested, they will wait together in school before returning on the buses. We imagine the buses will start their return journey at around 9.30am.

Does my child have to wear uniform for Test and Go?

No - but they **MUST** have a suitable face-covering, and clothing should be appropriate.

What if I am bringing my child to Test and Go by car?

Please drop your child off at the front of school, and then leave the site. We are unable to offer parking. Your child will contact you when they are ready to be collected. They will be able to wait under the bus shelters at the front of school.

Can my child walk to school for Test and Go?

Yes, absolutely - but they must return home immediately afterwards in line with Government restrictions.

What will Test and Go be like?

Students will be greeted on arrival by a senior member of staff who will direct them to the queuing area. Students will be expected to observe social distancing and wear their masks at all times.

Students will then be registered in the Bourne Hall, when they will receive a card with a barcode, 2 further barcodes, and a name card. These should be looked after carefully as they are needed for the test.

The testing centre is in the Sandwich Room, and is operated by school staff and volunteers who have all completed the required training. They will look after your child and guide them through the process.

The test itself is quick and easy. Students will self-swab their tonsils, and one nostril, before replacing their mask and leaving the test centre. You can watch a video of what the test is like [here](#).

What if my child can't get to school on the Test and Go days?

There are three local testing centres that families can access. Please be aware that these centres require you to book. The booking slots open at 9.00am with a 5 day lead-in; so if you access the site on Monday, the first appointments will be available for 5 days later. The sites are located in Sheerness, Kemsley and at Detling showground. Further details about locations and opening times can be found by clicking [here](#).

RESULTS of tests 1,2,3

How do I get the results to school if I go to a local testing centre?

You will receive a notification of your results to the mobile number or email address you used to register. If the test is positive, please send a notification to tss-myresult@swale.at with the date of the result and the date isolation is due to end.

How will I get the results if my child is tested in school?

Your child will be registered using the primary contact on Bromcom. Please let us know if your email or mobile number has changed, otherwise you may not receive the information. Results are provided through an NHS national server (NOT the school system), and can take between 30 minutes and several hours to arrive. Occasionally results do not arrive. Please do not worry. We will be logging all results and we will contact you personally if your child has a positive test result. If for any reason you do not get a result from the NHS system, and you do not hear from us, the test was negative.

What happens if the test is positive?

If any one of the three LFD tests carried out at school is positive, your child must isolate at home for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

What happens if a close contact at the school tests positive?

You will be notified, and will need to self-isolate following Government guidance.

What's happening with Track and Trace?

The Track and Trace system is still active. If you are contacted by Track and Trace you should follow their instructions and isolate as required.

What happens if the test is negative?

Your child can continue with their normal activities.

What does a 'void' test result mean?

Sometimes a test does not work properly and therefore the result will be 'void', or 'invalid'. This is not a cause for concern. If it happens, we will invite your child back to be tested again.

TESTS 2 and 3

Why are these after school / on Saturday?

We want to make sure that teaching and learning is the primary focus for students when they return. Testing during the day would be very disruptive, and result in even more learning time being lost. I am sure you will agree that all learning time should be maximised during the day.

My child gets a bus home to the Island. Will there be a late bus for the after school test?

There is a late bus at 4.15pm and we will ensure that students needing to catch the buses are tested first.

HOME TESTING

When does home testing start?

After their third test in school, students will be expected to self-test twice weekly. Testing kits will be sent to the school and given to students. Full guidance on how students register, and how to use the kits, will be provided.

GETTING BACK TO SCHOOL

What is the same?

Uniform, expectations, community... nothing here has changed. We expect our students to be smartly dressed in correct uniform, including shoes and face covering. This might be a good time to remind students that hoodies are not part of our uniform!

Students will be returning in their bubbles. This means they must enter and leave the school by the correct gates; they will have their lessons and breaks in the same year group zones; they will continue to sanitise their hands at the start and end of lessons; and they must wear masks in communal areas. Key messages will continue in period 1, and the end of the day will be staggered by year group.

What has changed?

We are very excited to have a new food pad and canopy on the playground behind G block, next to the field. This will be where Year 8 get their food at break and lunch, and will provide some much-needed shelter on wet weather days. **The other big change is that masks must now be worn inside the classrooms**, as well as the corridors.

We have created a [short video](#) for you to help you prepare for your return. Please watch it to hear about travel, clubs, expectations, health and safety, your well-being, learning and testing. You will see just how thrilled we are to have all our students back in school.

And finally, THANK YOU! We are incredibly grateful for your patience and support throughout this period. It has been a mighty challenge for all of us and it may take a little while for everything to settle back down to normal. In the meantime, we would ask you to encourage your child to remember our school ethos: 'Empowered through learning', and ask them to return with positivity, flexibility and courage.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's year group team in the first instance. We want to do everything we can to ensure the transition back into learning is as smooth as it can possibly be.

Yours faithfully



Ms J van Deelen
Deputy Headteacher