



12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## Return to School and Testing

It has been wonderful to welcome most of our students back to school this week, the school site is full of the excitement of having most children with us and we are looking forward to bringing Year 9 in on Monday to complete our re-integration.

Thank you for engaging in the testing process this week and for all your efforts in supporting us in this very important process. I can confirm that testing will continue at school next week, for those students where consent has been given, on the days outlined below:

|                        | <b>Testing Day</b>                     |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Year 7</b>          | <i>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March</i>    |
| <b>Years 11 and 13</b> | <i>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March</i>   |
| <b>Years 10 and 12</b> | <i>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</i> |
| <b>Year 8</b>          | <i>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March</i>  |
| <b>Year 9</b>          | <i>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March</i>    |

Students will be attending their normal lessons on the relevant day and our team will work with them at various times to escort them to our testing centre. We anticipate them being away from their lesson for five to ten minutes.

We have monitored our testing this week where we have only had a couple of positive tests from all of the staff and student community. We have asked the students concerned to isolate at home for the required ten days. We have now planned for the second and third tests which will take place on the same day of the week as the first test was taken. In reviewing this decision, we have needed to take into consideration the lack of space that we have available at Chew Valley and the size of our testing team who have done a brilliant job over this week. Students will be tested on days 1, 8 and 15 and will therefore have been tested three times over what is in effect a two week period.

We will be issuing test kits for students to start testing at home once the three tests in school have been completed and these should be done twice a week. Our testing frequency is in line with that of both Gordano and Backwell Schools, the other two secondary schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP).

## A Reminder of Symptoms and Actions around Coronavirus

Can I also use this opportunity to remind everyone of the symptoms of coronavirus below and to be really clear around the protocol now in place should a student be self-isolating or indeed show symptoms.

Main symptoms:

- **a high temperature** - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

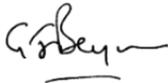
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** - this means that you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If students have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they are to get a test as soon as possible and stay at home until the result comes back. The student, and anyone who they live with, should stay at home and not have visitors until the test result – the only reason to leave the home is to go for a test. Anyone in the support bubble should also stay at home if they have been in close contact since the symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

As far as school is concerned therefore, if your child is self-isolating because they have been in contact with someone who has contracted COVID-19 then could you please let us know via the Attendance Officer, Mrs Williams. If on the other hand they show symptoms and you therefore are going to need to take them for a test, can you contact Mrs Lane, my Personal Assistant, and let her know either via the main reception number 01275 332272 or via email [nlane@chewvalleyschool.co.uk](mailto:nlane@chewvalleyschool.co.uk). It is really important that you then communicate back with Mrs Lane to let her know if the test has come back positive or negative.

My thanks again for your continued support.

With best wishes



Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher