

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**We have needed to revise the follow-up test slots for a proportion of Year 12 and 13 students following an administrative error. Please could you have a look at the Follow-Up Test table in this letter. Groups with changes are highlighted in yellow.**

## Mass Asymptomatic Testing at QEGS

I feel sure everyone is looking forward to returning to school as soon as we are safely able. Last week the government delivered several updates, which the Department for Education then explained in more detail. These included that:

- With the wider reopening of schools and colleges there would be some changes to the arrangements for testing in secondary schools.
- Home testing is to be introduced for secondary age students [11+]. It is important that students are supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they do this correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on site at our Asymptomatic Testing Site [ATS]. This is a condition of being able to transition students to test at home.
- Schools will be able to decide how best to deliver testing on a phased basis, prioritising vulnerable children and the children of key workers.
- Students may return to face-to-face education following their first negative result. Testing is voluntary and students not undergoing testing should return to school in line with the phased return arrangements for their cohort.
- All members of the school community are strongly encouraged to engage with the asymptomatic testing programme in order to help break transmission links, by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

For a school of our size there are certain logistical challenges we have needed to overcome. Therefore, it is very important your child attends for their first test at their allotted time. We will be unable to arrange alternative times.

Students must attend for their tests wearing the correct school uniform, lanyard and ID card. Doing this will help to ensure all those on site remain safe.

We must all continue to follow the national lockdown instructions and therefore you must travel directly to and from school, only attending the site for the test at your allotted time.

Remote and hybrid learning will continue to take place for your child until their return to school. Therefore, your child will be excused from registration for the lessons they miss whilst attending their test appointment.

## Students Currently Attending Key Worker Provision on Site.

We will aim to test each consenting student three times before their Year Group returns. Therefore, there will not be a need to attend for a first test with the rest of the Year group.

## Years 12 and 13 Asymptomatic Test Appointments

On arrival at school for the first test students must go directly to the Main Hall. Students will enter through the external fire exit as directed. We must ask anyone accompanying their child to school to wait in their car/carpark, and not to come up to the Main Hall.

It is very important that the student arrives at the Main Hall at the time indicated below. At peak times there may be a short wait and we would ask for your understanding.

Future tests will occur between 1.30 and 16.00. Therefore, some students may need to make alternative travel arrangements [see below for timings]

<b>First Test</b>	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year Groups: <b>12/13</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Group</b>
<b>Session One</b>	
09.00	12DA
09.30	12FU
10.00	12H1
10.30	12HU
<b>Session Two</b>	
11.00	12KA
11.30	12SM
12.00	12TO
12.30	12WA
13.00	13CH
<b>Session Three</b>	
13.30	13HP 13IL
14.00	13MO
14.30	13KE 13SH
15.00	13ME

<b>Revised Follow-Up Test Slots</b>	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year Groups: <b>12/13</b>
13.30	12SM
14.00	13HP <b>12HU</b>
14.30	12TO <b>12HI</b>
15.00	13IL 13CH
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year Groups: <b>12/13</b>
13.30	12WA
14.00	12FU 12KA
14.30	13MO <b>13ME</b>
15.00	13KE
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year Groups: <b>12/13</b>
13.30	13IL <b>12DA</b>
14.00	12TO
14.30	12HU
15.00	13SH
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year Groups: <b>12/13</b>
13.30	12WA 12KA
14.00	<b>13MO</b>
14.30	12HI
15.00	<b>13KE</b>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year Groups: <b>12/13</b>
13.30	12SM 12FU
14.00	13IL 13HP
14.30	12DA <b>13SH</b>
15.00	13CH 13ME

**Some answers to questions you might be thinking:**

1. Will the test be administered by school staff? No, the student will swab their own throat and nose.
2. Will students need to wear face-coverings? Yes, students do need to wear face-coverings, which they will be instructed to remove for the purpose of testing.
3. Why can't we have tests at home, and not test in school? The Department for Education will deliver home testing kits to the school in the next two weeks, and these will be given to students once the 'in school' testing is completed.
4. If I haven't given consent but do wish my child to be tested what can I do? We have recently sent out the links to sign-up for this, and it is not too late to do so now.

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. I feel sure your child is as excited as we are to have a swift, safe and positive return to school. So many of you have taken the time to email in to show that support, and I know will be willing us on through this final hurdle.

Please do not hesitate to contact either your child's Progress Leader or myself should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Bawden', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Bawden  
**Assistant Headteacher**