



HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JCB/JDN

5 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school from Monday 8 March.

Many thanks for completing the consent form about testing. At the time of writing, nearly 1,100 of you have responded with the vast majority agreeing to testing. I cannot tell you how grateful I am to you for your cooperation with this. If you haven't yet responded, please ensure you do so as soon as possible. We would like you to complete the form, even if you do not consent to testing. The consent form can be accessed [here](#).

Thanks also to those of you who have asked questions. I hope we have been able to respond appropriately. If you still have questions, please refer to the frequently asked questions (FAQs) document which is attached to this letter.

Just to remind you, the dates for the return of each year group are as follows:

- Monday 8 March: Year 11
- Tuesday 9 March: Year 8 and Year 13
- Wednesday 10 March: Year 10 and Year 9
- Thursday 11 March: Year 7 and Year 12

Please see the communication that was sent to you on Wednesday 3 March for the time that your child should arrive. Live lessons will continue for your child until the day before they return to school.

Please note that there is a change to arrival times of those students who have tested positive for Covid in the last 90 days.

Anyone testing positive in the last 90 days should arrive with the rest of their form to the MUGA. Please consent to your child to be tested but identify the date of the positive test. We will identify these students and give them a 'green card' pass to be able to go to lessons.

If you do not consent to testing for other reasons your child should go to their lessons after the rest of year group has been tested. Your child should enter school via Reception at the times shown in the table on the 3 March communication.

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Headteacher: Mr P Roberts

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Following the three in-school tests, we will be issuing your child with a home-testing kit for them to conduct the tests under your supervision. Further details will be given in the next communication with you.

Please be advised that a negative result on a lateral flow test does not mean that all the usual precautions regarding Covid safety can be relaxed. We still need to be vigilant and remember the hands-face-space guidance.

Please also remember to report any positive cases to us via the link at the foot of the front page of the school website.

Yours faithfully,

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

Mr Jeremy Barnett

Assistant Headteacher

Lateral Flow Testing at HGS – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The testing process for students begins on Monday 8 March. As many as one third of cases of Covid are asymptomatic. Regular testing aims to identify these cases and therefore bring down the rate of transmission.

We are very grateful to those people who have already completed the consent form. If you haven't yet done so, please follow the link [here](#).

We have received a number of questions about the testing process so we have put together a list of FAQs (frequently asked questions).

- 1. How many tests will my child take?**
Your child will take 3 tests in school, between 3 and 5 days apart. The first test will take place on the day they return to school, after which your child will stay in school, assuming the result is negative.
- 2. When does my child need to arrive in school?**
Each form has been allocated arrival times and days. Please refer to the notification you received on Wednesday 3 March about the testing process as this contained arrival times.
- 3. Where does my child have to go?**
For the first test only, your child should go to the MUGA using the Church Street gate and wait there until called for their test. If you haven't completed the consent form, we will not be able to give your child a test.
- 4. Does my child have to wear a face covering?**
Yes. Students will be required to wear a face mask (unless exempt on medical grounds) at all times when on the school premises. This includes classrooms, corridors and any indoor or outdoor space where social distancing rules cannot be guaranteed. Face coverings can be removed while eating or drinking. Please bear in mind safe application and removal of face coverings.
Students must wear face coverings during the testing process and but should remove the face covering when requested.
- 5. How long will my child be outside for?**
Results are normally processed in around 30 minutes so this means students will be waiting on the MUGA for at least half an hour. Students will need to wear warm clothing on top of their uniform to protect against the weather. As soon as results are processed we will be able to readmit students to classrooms, assuming results are negative.
- 6. Will dining room facilities be available?**
When students come in for their first test, break facilities will not be available. It is recommended that students bring a break-time snack and drink with them. Lunchtime facilities for all year groups will be available on the day they arrive at the usual times according to their timetable. Please note that we will be operating the split timetable again from 8 March.
- 7. Will my child be able to go to the toilet when they are waiting on the MUGA?**
Toilet facilities will not be available for students on the MUGA, except for emergency use only.

8. **Where will the tests take place?**
The testing will take place in the Sports Hall. We have set up 12 testing stations which will be operated by fully trained staff who will be wearing PPE. Other members of staff will be in the Sports Hall and on the MUGA to support and direct students so that the tests are taken quickly, safely and efficiently. We hope the whole process will be as smooth as possible. We understand that some students may not have taken a test before and may be anxious; our staff are available to offer any reassurance and support that may be needed.
9. **Does my child go home after their first test?**
No, they stay in school. Different schools have different ways of operating. When your child comes to school for their first test, they will stay in school and resume lessons.
10. **My child's test is later in the week. Will live lessons continue?**
Yes. Live lessons will continue until the day your child is scheduled to come to school. If your child's test window starts at 10.30am or 11.00am there will be no live lessons that day, but independent self-study work will be set on Teams for the first two lessons, if needed.
11. **I have children in different year groups taking tests on the same day, but at different times. Can I send my children at the same time?**
It would help us if you can send your children at the times specified. However, if this is not possible, please contact the school by emailing adminoffice@heckgrammar.co.uk.
12. **My child has had Covid in the last 90 days. Will they be tested?**
No. If your child has had Covid in the last 90 days there is no need for them to be tested. If this applies to your child, please consent to testing but give the date of the positive test. If this was in the last 90 days we will not test your child, but we will be able to send them to lessons straight away. They should go to the MUGA with the rest of their form at the time indicated on your letter.
Please note that this arrangement is different to the instructions issued in the communication on Wednesday 3 March
13. **I do not want my child tested at all. Is it compulsory?**
We very strongly urge you to consent to testing as we feel this contributes to a safer environment for all concerned. However, participation in the testing process is not compulsory. If you do not wish your child to be tested, please indicate your choice on the consent form and your child should go straight to their lesson at the time shown on the notification we sent to you. Students can enter school through Reception.
14. **I have access to home-testing kits at home. Can I use these with my child instead of them taking part in the testing process at school?**
Participation in the in-school testing programme is not compulsory. As mentioned above, it helps the school if we know that as many of our students as possible are taking part in testing in school. We will be issuing students with home-testing kits after the three in-school tests have been completed.
15. **What happens after my child has taken their test?**
After your child has taken their first test they will return to the MUGA and await their result. This takes around 30 minutes, after which your child will be dismissed from the MUGA and they can resume their lessons, assuming the result is negative.

16. **What happens if the test comes back positive?**
If your child's test comes back positive, we will remove them from the MUGA and take them to a room to isolate. We will keep you informed and make arrangements for them to go home with you. All members of your household and support bubble should isolate and follow current Government guidance.
17. **Will I find out the results of my child's test?**
You will receive notification from NHS Test and Trace about your child's test result as we share results with the NHS. You will be informed using the email address you supplied on the consent form. If your child's test is positive, we will also contact you.
18. **My child is isolating. Will live lessons continue?**
If your child is isolating and is well enough to be working, teachers will live-stream their lessons as they did in the Autumn term.
19. **What happens after the first test? Do the second and third in-school tests take place in the same way?**
Once we have completed the first round of testing and all students have returned to lessons, we will continue the testing process. This time, students will leave their lesson to go to the Sports Hall for their test and then return straight away to their lesson. If a student tests positive, they will be removed from their lesson and taken to a room to isolate. We will contact you to make arrangements for your child to go home. We will also follow our contact tracing procedures to identify any close contacts who may also have to isolate.
20. **How do I report the results from tests taken at home?**
Full details about home testing for students will be issued in due course.
21. **What happens after the three tests have been taken?**
After your child has taken three tests in school it is hoped that they will know how to take a test correctly. You will then receive home-testing kits for your child to take twice a week.
22. **Will the staff be tested?**
During the period of lockdown we have been encouraging those staff who are working in the building to be tested twice a week. From 8 March, all staff will be issued with home-testing kits for them to be able to test themselves at home twice a week.

If you have questions about the testing process, please visit the NHS website by following the link here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>. If your query is specifically about the arrangements at school and is not answered by the FAQs, please email admin@heckgrammar.co.uk.