

31st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to provide an update regarding lateral flow device testing and contact tracing during the Easter period.

Lateral Flow Device Testing

Where consent has been provided for lateral flow testing, students should **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays** and report their results in the usual way to NHS Test and Trace and to the school. Your child will have enough test kits to last them until the end of the holidays. Students must test before returning to school for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases. **Students should therefore ensure they test on Sunday, 18th April in the evening, or on Monday, 19th April in the morning before coming to school.** New testing kits will be issued in the new term.

Contact Tracing

During the Easter break, we will still be contact tracing for a limited period of time. I would ask that parents and carers read through the following two paragraphs carefully:

- **If your child tests positive on a Lateral Flow Device up until 3:30pm on Good Friday, 2nd April, please contact us** as they will need to self isolate and we will need to contact trace. If they test positive **after** that time on a Lateral Flow Device, **there is no need to contact us** because they tested positive more than 48 hours after last being in school and contact tracing is unnecessary. You should book a PCR test immediately and follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- **If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19 up to 3.30pm on Good Friday, 2nd April, and subsequently tests positive on a PCR test, please contact us** as they will need to self isolate and we will need to contact trace. If they become symptomatic **after** that time, **there is no need to contact us** because they developed symptoms more than 48 hours after last being in school. You should book a PCR test immediately and follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

If either of these scenarios occurs please email both Mrs Bashford-Hynes ehynes@vynersschool.org.uk and Mrs Foster afoster@vynersschool.org.uk to report the positive case.

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

Returning to school after Easter

As a reminder, we are asking that all students, with the exception of those with medical exemptions, return to school on Monday 19th April fully prepared to wear face coverings within the school buildings including within classrooms. We are anticipating that schools will be updated regarding this guidance during the Easter holidays. However, we will not make a final decision on our approach until the start of the summer term as this will require a significant amendment to our risk assessments and Covid protocols.

I would also very much appreciate parental support in the maintenance of all school standards as we start the summer term. I appreciate that barber shops and hair salons are due to reopen during the Easter holidays. However, students must abide by our standards that haircuts need to be **grade 2 or longer** when returning to school and that hair should not be dyed, particularly in unnatural colours. I would please also ask parents and carers to check that their child is not wearing makeup, jewellery or banned items and that they are presented in full school uniform.

Finally, I would again like to thank all families for their ongoing support. This has been another extraordinary term, but we have been delighted to have been able to welcome students back into the school. I hope that everyone associated with the school is able to enjoy a safe and restful Easter break and that we are all able to look forward with optimism to the summer term.

Yours sincerely,

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

Gary Mullings
Headteacher