



Spalding High School

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Headmistress Mrs M Anderson B.Ed

21st July 2021

Dear Year 9 students and parents/carers,

The arrangements for the phased return are well underway and we can now confirm the following arrangements for testing and return to school. As of September you will be our new Year 9.

Year 9 MUST attend school on TUESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER.

Students are not to attend school if they have **any** of the symptoms of Covid-19, no matter how mild. Parents must organise a PCR test via NHS Test and Trace if their child has any of the symptoms of Covid-19 and follow the Government advice found here: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

Parents should contact the school and inform us that their child will not be attending on Tuesday 7th September as they are too unwell to do so. The three main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- A fever.
- A new continuous cough.
- Loss of smell/taste.

In order to maintain enhanced protective measures whilst Year 9 is being tested on Tuesday 7th September, student arrival times will be staggered. Students must complete their Lateral Flow Test before resuming face-to-face lessons. We have decided against bringing the year group in for testing in the week before 6th September in case families are still on holiday and also to ensure that test outcomes are as accurate as possible.

What time should I arrive?

There are two sets of arrival instructions (see below), please follow the instructions and timings.

Students who use Local Authority designated transport or private school buses/taxis must arrive at their normal time between **8.30 and 8.55am**. The arrival of this group of students is **not** influenced by their form group.

All other students must arrive at the following times:

- Students in **9C and 9J** arrive between **10.15-10.25am**
- Students in **9N and 9P** arrive between **10.35-10.45am**
- Students in **9S** arrive between **10.55-11.05am**

Where should I go?

All students must arrive as normal, through the front green pedestrian gates. You will be met by staff and welcomed back. You will need to use hand sanitiser upon arrival and have a face mask ready for when you enter the buildings. We will direct you to the pre-test holding area (either the sports hall or the school hall).

What will happen in the holding area?

We have staggered your arrival time to reduce the time you will have to wait in the holding area. Both the sports hall and the school hall have been set up with desks more than 2m apart. When you arrive, you will

be directed to a desk and be able to get on with private study, read a book or chat with friends. If it is a nice morning and the grass on the field is dry, we will use the school field as the holding area instead. The Senior Team, Pastoral Team and other staff will be around to chat to you and catch up. You should not be in the holding area for too long before we take you to the testing room.

What will happen in the testing room?

The Covid Test Room is Room 6 (the food room in South Porch). Mrs Pryke, our Covid Test Team Leader, supported by staff such as Mrs Jarvis, Mrs Smith and parent volunteers will help with the tests. You will be well looked after and they will explain everything that you have to do. There is a one-way system through the room where you enter via the link corridor and leave via the fire door into the Quad.

What is the test like?

You are all very used to doing the LFD tests, however, we now have new kits that require two nasal samples rather than one throat and one nasal sample. The results only take 15 minutes too – so less waiting around! Don't worry. It really is fine. You will be in the test room for less than 5 minutes and any discomfort you might feel will last no longer than a few seconds.

What happens after the test?

You have to return to the holding area and sit at the same desk. No-one else will have sat at that place whilst you have been gone. It will take about 15 minutes for the results to come through. Students over 16 will receive their results on their phones from NHS Test and Trace, but as we have the results in school, we do not need to wait for them to come through to your phone (or your parent's phone if you are under 16). Please ask your parents to have their phones on, so we can contact them if we need to. As soon as you have your negative result, we will take you to your form room.

When do I start lessons?

We always have form time for the first two lessons on the first day back at school in September. This is to sort out timetables, planners and routines etc. We are hoping that the year group will be back in lessons after those two periods with your tutor.

What am I meant to do on Monday 6th September?

There will not be lessons on Monday 6th September. We are allocating an organisation day. There will be no Teams lessons or work set that day. Organise your uniform, bag, books and folders and finish off any work that you still need to complete from last year.

What happens at breaktime?

Students who have been tested and are already back in their form, will be able to have break as normal. Those students who are still in the holding area waiting for their test or result will need to stay – so bring food and drink with you just in case!

What happens at lunchtime?

The Year 9 testing should be finished during the morning and so lunch will be as normal. The canteen is open and we will follow the normal staggered times to use it.

What do I need to wear?

Normal school uniform. Make sure your trousers are the right length and that you have followed the hair, make up and jewellery rules.

What do I need to bring?

Your pencil case and note pad. You will be issued with your timetable in the morning but will not be expected to have all of your books or PE kit with you. You also need to bring food and drink in case you are still in the holding area during breaktime and some private study work or a book for while you are waiting to join the form.

Will I receive homework on my return to school?

Yes. The homework timetable will resume.

Can I use the locker that was allocated to me in Term 2?

Yes. We will resume the shared locker system for coats and PE kits. As before, the lockers will not be locked and so must not be used for valuables or books. Students are reminded to only bring with them what they need for each day as it is essential that we keep surfaces clear and easy to clean. Furthermore, you will also need the majority of your folders and books at home just in case you have to self-isolate. Mrs Jarvis will organise the lockers with form tutors for September.

What is happening about PE/Games?

Students in Years 7 – 11 will have two hours of PE/Games per week and change into their kits at school. Changing routines were established this year. The risk assessment is on the School website.

What happens if my test is inconclusive?

The test team will let you know and then try to re-test your original swab to get a result. If they can't, you might need to take the test again.

What happens if my test is positive?

Hopefully it won't be, but if it is, we will organise for you to be collected and you will need to go home and organise a PCR test. You will need to self-isolate until the PCR result is through. If it is positive you will need to complete the self-isolation. If it is negative you will be able to return to school. We will continue to collect the names of school based close contacts.

I haven't registered for my test yet. What should I do?

Email covidtesting@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk and Mrs Pryke/Mrs Jarvis will sort it out for you.

I do not give my permission to be tested. What happens now?

Asymptomatic testing is vitally important in the fight to control this virus, especially the new, more transmissible variants. Please reconsider your decision and participate in the self-test. We know that you might not want to do the test (for a variety of reasons) but please think seriously about those around you who will be affected if you are an asymptomatic carrier and pass the virus on. Testing is voluntary. No one can force you to take the test. The government have made it clear that you may restart your lessons and if you decide not to be tested, we would ask that you arrive in school for 8.55am on Tuesday 7th September and go to reception where you will be met and taken to your form room.

I feel unwell (not Covid related) on Tuesday 7th and cannot attend school. What should I do?

Have your parent/carer contact the School and report the absence as normal. We will organise for you to have your test when you return. You are not to attend your form but must report to reception on your first morning back so that we can meet you and do the test. Your parent/carer should contact us the day before you plan to return so that we know to expect you and we can organise everything ahead of your return.

What do I do on Wednesday (8th) morning?

Arrive as normal, go straight to the form room and get on with school!

When will we be tested again?

Year 9 are due to have their second in-school test on Friday 10th September. This will be organised very differently to the return to school test. We will publish a rota and collect students from lessons for a few minutes to conduct the test during the day. You will not have to wait in holding areas.

Why do we have to do two in-school tests first?

The government want you to do two on-site tests before you start lessons again in case people have picked up the virus over the summer holidays.

What will happen with the home testing kits and results?

We will return to the normal pattern of Sunday and Wednesday home testing and Teams reporting when you have done your school tests.

I would rather do the tests in school. Can I?

Yes. There will be lots of students who prefer to test at school.

How long will the government want us to complete the twice weekly tests?

At the moment, they have told schools that this will continue until at least the end of September. It depends upon the infection and transmission rates and any new variants.

Yours sincerely



M K Anderson
Headmistress