



Return to College March 2021: General FAQs

Does my child have to take a lateral flow test in order to return to school?

Nobody will be forced to take a test although the more that we do, the more confident we can be in the safety of the whole school. Parents have completed a google form to give permission for their child to be tested or not. If a student is 16 they could fill in the form themselves. Students who do not take a test will be welcomed back the same as any other and just need to follow the same timeline of return as the rest of their year group.

I have heard the lateral flow tests are not as effective as PCR tests?

There is a range of scientific evidence and opinion in this area and it is certainly true that the tests used in school do not 100% detect all people who may be asymptomatic. From the school's point of view if we have the chance to detect 2 or 3 out of 5 asymptomatic carriers in our community this is better than none and improves the safety of the school environment.

Who carries out the testing?

The actual taking of the swab from a student's throat and nose is **only ever done** by the student themselves. Trained staff help by talking them through the process, advising and reassuring them. The analysis of the sample is carried out by other trained staff before being logged on the NHS testing system. If a student is unable to swab themselves no test is carried out.

Will students have to wear masks all day?

All students excluding those who have exemptions will be expected to wear them whenever they are inside school buildings. *We are expecting those who consider themselves exempt to already be known to us or to contact us before 8 March.*

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965446/Face_coverings_in_education_-_March_2021.pdf

Due to the structure of the school day no student has more than 2-2 ½ hours in a building without the opportunity to be outside and take off their mask. When students can move to their next lesson via an outdoor route this would provide an opportunity to have a break. We recognise that mask wearing for a sustained period of time is uncomfortable but would ask people to take the view that this is a small price to pay when weighed up against the many benefits of being back at school.

What do I do if my uniform does not fit anymore?

Part of students returning to their normal routines and the safety of their established school culture is the wearing of their uniform. Please use what time you have to check it all fits and is clean for their return day. Uniform does not have to be worn for the testing days - but must be worn on their return to lessons.

- SOHCC have supplies of pre-loved uniform which may be worth exploring for items that need replacing <https://www.facebook.com/heathfieldccuniform/>
- Broadbridges shops are currently closed but we are still processing internet orders for collection by arrangement or home delivery. For all enquiries please email: sales@broadbridges.co.uk.

What should I do if I have specific shielding concerns around my child's attendance at school due to their or a family member's health?

There is guidance and we are aware there have also been additional GP letters regarding those considered extremely clinically vulnerable or clinically vulnerable. If your circumstances have changed since the New Year or you have concerns and you have not been in touch with school to discuss this, please contact us via either your Pastoral Manager or office@heathfieldcc.co.uk and somebody will be in touch before your child's first day.

What is the situation with government tutoring programmes or summer schools?

We already have some students receiving intervention and catch up programmes following previous lockdowns. At this time the full details for new or increased future funding and any limitations on its use have not been released. We have our own data on how each young person has engaged with home learning and will be using it to put support in place where it is needed.

Where can I find the school risk assessment?

This can be found on the school website under statutory information or our COVID information page. https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=2092035