

# Alderbrook School

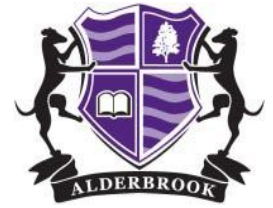
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25 August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are having an enjoyable summer. We are much looking forward to our new Year 7 cohort joining us in September, and welcoming your children into our school community. It was fantastic to meet so many students at our summer school, but whether your child was able to attend or not, we want to make sure they enjoy a smooth and happy start to the term. I am writing to provide you with some information about a chance to visit the school prior to term starting, and the COVID testing programme that will begin at the start of the new academic year.

## Opportunity to visit prior to start of term

We are very conscious that some students, especially if they were not able to attend the summer school, may not have had a chance to visit Alderbrook. We would therefore like to invite students and their parent/carers to come for a look around the school on Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am. This will be an informal chance to see the school and ask questions to a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). You do not need to sign up for this, just arrive at 9am and we will meet you at the main school reception. Please do not walk around the school site until you are assigned a group with a member of SLT. Please enter the school via the Blossomfield Road gate, if possible on foot. We must ask that if you would like to do this, you arrive at 9am, as we will only be available for an hour. Please do not worry if you are not available, new students will be shown around the school when term starts. This opportunity is open to all new Year 7 students, even if they attended the summer school.

## Start of Term, September 2021

The start of the school year will be staggered to enable all students to be tested and to safely return to school. Testing and the return of students to school will begin on Friday 3 September. Start dates for year groups will be staggered as the Government has requested that schools offer all students two Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests on site, spaced three to four days apart. Testing is voluntary and students will be allowed to attend school even if they decide not to take part in testing. However, we would like to encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly – particularly as most students will not have been testing for a long period over the summer and will need to re-establish the habit of regular twice weekly testing.

**NB: Parental consent for on site testing is required. If you have not done so already could you please complete and return your consent as detailed in the attached letter [here](#)**

Following the first of two LFD tests, students can return to school. Please note that the Government guidance in September is for schools to cease contact tracing, and not to close classes and bubbles. We therefore strongly encourage all our students to be tested as they return to school.

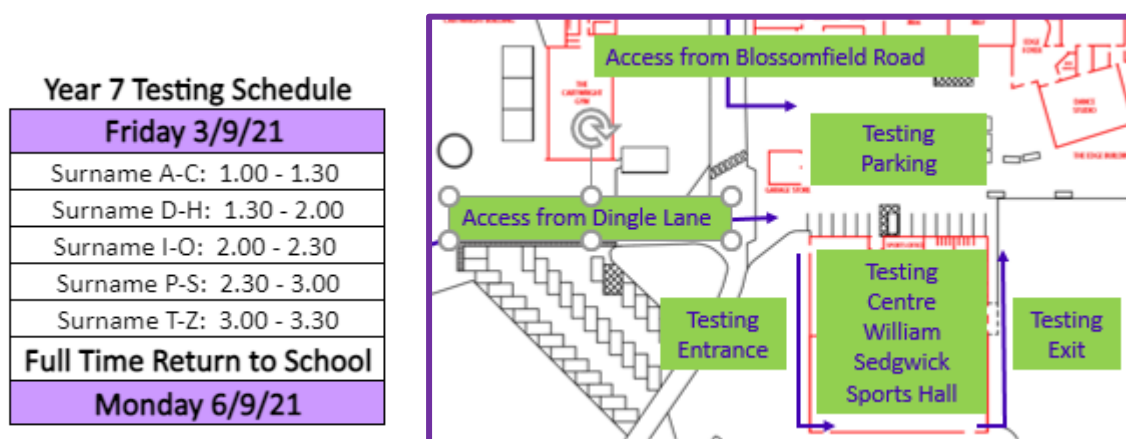
For further information on consent and testing FAQs, please refer to the letter sent to parents in July.

### Dates and times for testing and full return to school

The table indicates for Year 7 students:

- The dates of your child's first Lateral Flow test (for students with consent)
- The start date for full time, on-site, teaching for all students.

No student will be penalised for not testing, all students in a year group return on the same day (Lateral Flow Testing for each year occurs the day before each particular year group returns). If your child is not being tested – they do not need to attend school until the date of full return, Monday 6 September.



### Information about on site testing

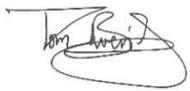
- The Testing Centre will once again take place in the Sports Hall (The William Sedgwick Building).
- Students should arrive at their allocated time slot. Members of staff will be on hand to greet them and give further guidance on the testing procedure.
- There will be no parking or access for parents on the school site. Access to the school site will be possible via the pedestrian gates on Blossomfield Road (Main Entrance) and Dingle lane.
- Students must make their own way from the school gates to the Testing Centre.
- Students must keep to their allotted time, in order to maintain a manageable flow of students in the Test Centre.
- Students arriving on site for their first Lateral Flow Test, will not be required to wear uniform.
- All students that enter the test centre will be required to wear a mask, so please ensure your child has one. Wearing of a mask whilst in the test centre is compulsory. The testing process is quick and there will be staff to support students who have previously been exempt.
- The Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test device kits for on-site testing has changed from earlier in the year. The new Orient Gene LFDs will replace the current Innova LFDs. The new

Orient Gene LFDs require a nasal swab only. Please note Home testing kits are not changing.

- Once your child has been tested they can return home ready to begin the new academic year. If they record a negative result, they can return to school on their planned, staggered return date (see above).
- All results come straight from the NHS and so, you will receive a text message or an email following the test (normally within 1-hour). In addition, if your child tests positive, we will call you as soon as we know – and follow the Covid-19 guidelines.

We will send out further correspondence at the start of term. In the meantime, enjoy the end of the holidays and we look forward to welcoming all students to school at the start of September.

Best wishes



**Tom Beveridge**  
**Headteacher**