

24th December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

You may well be aware that secondary schools were asked at the end of last term to set up testing stations on their school sites. This will be from the beginning of the spring term and I have, with key colleagues at the school, been looking at all the documentation over the last few days to ensure we are as knowledgeable as we possibly can be.

The setting up of a mass testing station, as I'm sure you can imagine, is a huge undertaking which is intended to allow schools to test students for COVID-19 on a large scale. This mass testing is intended to replace a student having to isolate when they have been in contact with a positive case. The testing will also support schools in finding out those students which might be asymptomatic carriers of the virus.

The idea behind the mass testing is that schools will have to isolate less students and more children will be able to remain in school and be able to continue their learning. Should you wish to find out more about the mass testing programme there is further information available in the link below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/947799/schools_and_colleges_testing_handbook.pdf

As a result of being asked to set up a testing station on school site the government have offered a further PD Day to all secondary schools to support this mammoth task. **We will be taking this at Copleston which will mean that students will now return to school on Wednesday 6th January if they are in Year 11, Year 13, classified by the government as a vulnerable child or if they are the child of a key worker.** All other students (in year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12) will, as stated in my letter on December 18th, be receiving online teaching from Wednesday January 6th.

I will be writing to you again at the start of January with a more detailed update. We are expecting further guidance from the DfE at the end of December and I will write to you again once this has been published. As you are aware things are moving very quickly at the moment and should there be any changes, linked to the education of your child at Copleston, I will let you know at the earliest possible opportunity.

With my very best wishes

Mr AB Green

Principal