



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to share with you our plan for safely welcoming back all of our Nobelians. As you are aware, we have to offer lateral flow testing to all students and staff before they return to school. The guidance that has been provided by the Department for Education is as follows:

“Home testing is being introduced for secondary age pupils (11+) students. It is important that pupils and students are initially supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on-site, at an asymptomatic test site (ATS). Secondary schools should offer students 3 tests on-site upon their return. Testing on-site (via an ATS) initially is a condition of being able to transition pupils and students to test at home Pupils should return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Pupils not undergoing testing should attend school in line with phased return arrangements. Testing is voluntary; however, we would encourage everyone to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly.”

With nearly 1500 students and staff, this is a significant logistical challenge and so we will need to complete this in stages as outlined below:

#### **Thursday 4 March**

Year 11 are invited to attend to take their first lateral flow test. Students should arrive in the timeslot allocated for their House and wait outside Reception to register. Students can arrive at any time during this window.

8:30 – 10:00	Curie
10:15 – 11:45	Eliot
12:00 – 13:30	Mandela
2:00 – 3:30pm	Teresa

The test itself only takes a few minutes to complete, after which students can return home.



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Students in Year 11 will continue to work remotely on Friday 5 March and then return to school, assuming a negative test result, at normal time on **Monday 8 March**. They will be invited to take two subsequent lateral flow tests, each at least three days apart, during school time that week so that they will then be able to complete any subsequent tests at home. This testing will have finished before the Year 11 mock exams begin.

### **Friday 5 March**

Year 7 and Year 8 are invited to attend to take their first lateral flow test. Students should arrive in the timeslot allocated for their House and wait outside Reception to register. Students can arrive at any time during this window.

#### **Year 7**

**8:30 – 9:45** Curie and Eliot

**10:00 – 11:45** Mandela and Teresa

#### **Year 8**

**12:00 – 13:15** Curie and Eliot

**13:45 – 15:00** Mandela and Teresa

The test itself only takes a few minutes to complete, after which students can return home.

Students in Year 7 and 8 will then return to school, assuming a negative test result on **Monday 8 March** at their normal time. They will be invited to take two subsequent lateral flow tests, each at least three days apart, during school time over the next week so that they will then be able to complete any subsequent tests at home.

### **Monday 8 March**

Year 10 are invited to attend to take their first lateral flow test. Students should arrive in the timeslot allocated for their House.

**8:30 – 9:45** Curie and Eliot

**10:00 – 11:45** Mandela and Teresa

The test itself only takes a few minutes to complete, after which students can return home.

Students in Year 10 will then return to school, assuming a negative test result, on **Tuesday 9 March** at their normal time. They will be invited to take two subsequent lateral flow tests, each at least three days apart, during school time over the next week so that they will then be able to complete any subsequent tests at home.

### **Tuesday 9 March**

Year 9 are invited to attend to take their first lateral flow test. Students should arrive in the timeslot allocated for their House and wait outside Reception to register. Students can arrive at any time during this window.

**8:30 – 9:45** Curie and Eliot

**10:00 – 11:45** Mandela and Teresa

The test itself only takes a few minutes to complete, after which students can return home. Students in Year 9 will then return to school, assuming a negative test result, on **Wednesday 10 March** at their normal time. They will be invited to take two subsequent lateral flow tests, each at least three days apart, during school time over the next week so that they will then be able to complete any subsequent tests at home.

### **Arrangements for Years 12 and 13**

Separate testing arrangements are being made for Years 12 and 13 and Mr MacGuire will write to our sixth form students and parents separately to outline these plans.

Students in all year groups will continue to work remotely, participating in Teams lessons, until their scheduled return to school. On the day a year group is due to come in to school for testing, there will be no live lessons but work will be set on Show My Homework and students are expected to complete this before their return to school. Those children currently attending Key Worker provision in school will continue to do so until the day that their year group returns to school.

This schedule for testing and returning to school is, of course, dependent on enough staff being available to meet the requirements of this testing timetable. Should we need to amend any part of the plan we will let you know as soon as we possibly can and I thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Students will need to bring an appropriate face covering both for the day of their lateral flow test and for every school day following their return. We look forward to welcoming everyone back but please do not send your child to school if they have a high temperature, loss of taste or smell or new continuous cough.

If you have any further queries please contact us at school.

Yours sincerely

*Christine Crawley*

Christine Crawley  
School Business Manager

*Naomi Rose*

Naomi Rose  
Deputy Headteacher