

Malmesbury School

Corn Gastons
Malmesbury
Wiltshire
SN16 0DF

T: 01666 829700

admin@malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk
www.malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Rupert Moreton

RMO/rem
25 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted that we will be welcoming back all our students to school in the w/c 8 March. Whilst this is very positive news, we must continue to be vigilant and careful in our approach to opening the school to 1400+ students and 100+ staff, therefore we write to request your help. It is vital that all students and staff participate in the testing programme set out by the government:

- teachers will self-test at home twice weekly
- students will have three tests in school during the first two weeks back (8 March – 19 March), then subsequent weekly testing which will be carried out at home. Most people have already given consent, thank you, if you have not already provided consent for the school to test your child(ren) please click on this [link to complete the Covid-19 Testing Consent Form](#)

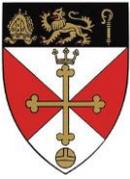
To keep the school open and not send home any year group bubbles, it is important that we try to stop chains of transmission where possible and detect asymptomatic cases quickly. It is also very important to note the virus has not gone away. Very few members of staff have been vaccinated and many of them travel from areas where the South African variant case rates are still high. The testing programme will only be effective if we have 100% participation and I would encourage everyone to take a test.

We believe that as a Happy, Caring and Excellent School as our core values that we are all morally obliged to play our part in protecting our community, therefore we expect all parents to support us and consent to testing for their children.

If you are considering not consenting to your child being tested, I would ask that you please contact a member of SLT in the first instance to discuss your concerns. We will of course be supportive to all our families but must do everything possible to limit the risk of spreading infection to others. For students who are untested we are investigating the use of alternative teaching arrangements. Testing will protect your child's health and learning experiences, their peers and friends who they sit next to in lessons and socialise with at break and lunchtime, and the wider school community. Testing no longer involves swabbing the tonsils, it is now a quick swab of both nostrils and whilst slightly uncomfortable is much less invasive and easier for people. Please see more details about the testing and consent at the end of this letter.



A charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, as The Athelstan Trust
Company No: 7699625



Our staff are very keen to see students return to classes and I would hope our community will do everything possible to support and keep our staff and students safe. Please see below a message from our staff governors:

On behalf of the staff at Malmesbury School, we all appreciate you allowing your child to be tested prior to returning to school on the 8 March. By doing this we are keeping the entire community at Malmesbury School safe whilst at school and enabling everyone to return to the classroom where we all would rather be delivering the quality education your children have become accustomed to whilst at school. Remote learning does not compare to the quality of face-to-face teaching regardless of the efforts all your teachers have made. By testing in school this means that the whole community can return to face-to-face teaching whilst reducing the risk of having to return to remote learning in the future.

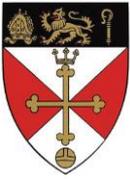
More information will follow regarding the dates testing will take place along with other protective measures that we have put in place to support reopening on 8 March. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact the school mailin@malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk Thank you all so much in advance for your ongoing support in these challenging and difficult times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Moreton'.

Rupert Moreton
Headteacher





Where will testing take place?

The testing site at will be the main school gym.

Who will carry out the testing?

The school has appointed a team of colleagues (all of whom are supervised by DBS cleared Team Leaders) to oversee the testing. Students are required to swab their own nose before it is passed to the testing team for processing.

What type of test is it?

The testing kits used are the rapid lateral flow tests. If a positive result is confirmed, parents/staff will be required to arrange for a laboratory test using the normal arrangements (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or phoning 119).

What happens if my result is positive?

If students do test positive, then the school will expect parents to collect them from school as soon as possible. Students will remain isolated until collected. Staff testing positive will need to go home. Both staff and parents should book a laboratory PCR test straight away. The school will need to see the results of this test. If the laboratory test is negative students/staff can return to school.

What happens if my result is negative?

Students and staff can continue to attend school/work in the normal way. Testing does not remove the need for everyone to socially distance, keep good hand hygiene, wear face coverings and for good ventilation when inside.

Do I have to take part?

We must have parental consent for children under 16 to take part and individual consent for anyone over 16.

Consent relates to the following groups of students/pupils and staff as follows:

For students younger than 16 years - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian.

Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

Students over 16 can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent/guardian if under 18.

What if I have questions?

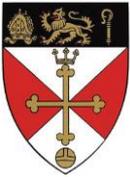
The NHS and Government website provide plenty of information about COVID-19 and the testing requirements. If you have a specific question about how the testing will take place at Malmesbury School please contact us on mailin@malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

The electronic consent form is for participation in tests designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Anyone experiencing symptoms should follow government guidelines to self-isolate, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in communications from the school.



A charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, as Malmesbury School
Company No: 7699625



2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. I consent to having / my child having a nose swab for a lateral flow test.
4. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
5. I understand that if my child / my result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school/college except where they/you are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I agree to take my child for a confirmatory PCR test as soon as is possible.
7. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
8. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school / college and I understand that I/ my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.

