



Colton Hills Community School

Confidence. Happiness. Courage. Success.

Headteacher
Mrs A Stephens

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Community School**
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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe.

I am sure you will have seen the briefing from the Prime Minister last Monday, which instructed that all schools will now commence returning on **Monday 8th March**.

I want to reassure you that we are working tremendously hard behind the scenes to ensure that our staff and students can return safely with minimal disruption.

As you may already know, students are expected to have 3 lateral flow tests during their first two weeks of returning. We currently have a number of consent forms outstanding and we do need a full return in order to plan effectively. I would strongly advise all parents to give their consent as by doing this you are protecting our students, protecting our staff and protecting our community.

Antigen lateral flow tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19. They work by assessing the viral load in the body, which can be high in individuals, yet they show no symptoms but can still spread the virus. Using antigen LFD tests is crucial in the fight against the virus and in limiting the disruption to your child's education once students have returned. Extensive clinical evaluations have been carried out on the antigen lateral flow tests. Evaluations show these tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening.

I also would like to reassure you that our test site and practices have been highly commended in a most recent inspection. You can see a short video of what the testing entails [HERE](#).

It is important to remember that these tests are an additional layer of health protection measure in addition to face coverings, social distancing etc. **If you have not completed the consent form for testing can I ask that you do so here as soon as possible by Wednesday 3rd March [HERE](#).**

Our two parent afternoons take place this week on **Tuesday 2nd March** and **Thursday 4th March from 1.30 until 4.00**. If you have not already done so you can schedule your appointments [HERE](#).

Please also note that on **Tuesday 2nd March** we need to update staff on the safety measures and necessary procedures for returning. Therefore, remote learning will be provided through TEAMS as usual, but **there will not be a live teacher element on this day**. Students will be provided with work, guidance and instructions, a large proportion of which will be revision to prepare for assessments when they return.

I shall write to you again later this week, once we have had chance to finalise our plans for returning from the 8th March, and we will outline the arrangements for when and how students will return.

In the meantime, can I thank you for your continued support and efforts at home in ensuring our students engage in their learning. If you have any questions or queries, please do get in touch.

We are very much looking forward to having our students back in school and seeing you all soon.

Kind regards,