



28<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

You will probably have seen or read the news stories recently about secondary schools being asked to implement a phased start to the spring term and being invited to set up a mass Covid testing programme for students and staff. Despite the last-minute nature of these government requests, a great deal of work has gone on behind the scenes at national and at county level, and in our case, by the Core Group of the Bourne Education Trust. I am writing to you today to explain how Chertsey High school intends to respond to these **extremely last-minute government requests**.

The aim of the government testing programme is to identify asymptomatic cases of COVID-19, it does not replace the existing guidance and testing requirements for anyone experiencing symptoms. If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**The government testing programme is envisaged as follows:**

1. Participation in any part of the programme is optional with parental and student consent required; no student or staff member will be turned away from school because they have not participated.
2. The test process will be facilitated on school site by school staff and volunteers.
3. Students self-test twice at the beginning of the school term with 3-5 days in between tests.
4. Staff self-test once at the beginning of the school term and then weekly until further notice.
5. From then on, any staff and/or students identified as being a contact of a confirmed case will be tested every day for the next 7 school days. They may continue to come to school as long as each test is negative. Any student or staff member who has chosen not to participate in the programme will be required to self-isolate in line with the latest government guidance should they be identified as a contact of a confirmed case.

We will follow the government guidance on how to phase the start of term, which is intended to ensure effective education can continue but also reduce the spread of the virus as students and staff return after Christmas. This means the following:

**Phased start to term**

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January will be an INSET day for all year groups – no lessons will take place.
- On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, the following students should come into school:
  - Vulnerable children
  - Children of critical workers

If you are unsure about whether or not your child falls into one of these categories, please contact Miss Brazier ([braziers@chertseyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:braziers@chertseyhighschool.co.uk)) for confirmation.

Headteacher: Mrs Zelia Munnik

Telephone: 01932 598020

Chertsey Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2EP

Email: [info@chertseyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:info@chertseyhighschool.co.uk) [www.chertseyhighschool.co.uk](http://www.chertseyhighschool.co.uk)

Company Registration No: 07768726 VAT Registration No: 200109287



During this first week of term, all other students should stay at home. **We will be providing remote education for those students from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.** Please see my letter from 18<sup>th</sup> December to see further details regarding our Remote Learning plan. If you have any other queries regarding Remote Learning, please contact Mrs Goulborn ([goulborn@chertseyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:goulborn@chertseyhighschool.co.uk)) or visit our website [here](#). The aim is that students in those year groups undertaking Remote Learning from home will be invited into school before their return to undertake two lateral flow tests spaced 3 days apart. Where timing does not allow this, students will be tested once they have returned.

It is our intention that for all students to be back in school from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, regardless of whether they have been tested or not. This however can change given the nature of the situation.

### **Mass testing programme**

We are encouraged by the potential for the mass testing of students and staff in schools, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer students and staff to have to self-isolate. You can read more about how the government expects this programme to work [here](#).

Setting up this programme in schools is an incredibly complex operation. We have been sent some information about how it should work already, but more detailed guidance is expected to be produced by the government over this holiday period.

We will not, therefore, be in position to have this programme up and running as soon as the spring term starts. At the start of term, we will review what the expectations are, what support is available from the government or other agencies, and what we can realistically deliver. We will let you know more about our plans as soon as we can in January. In the meantime, from the start of next term, we will continue to implement the range of safety measures we have been using in the autumn term.

### **Registration of Participation and Consent**

I know you will have many questions about the testing process itself. Additional documents produced by the school and government providing information regarding this are attached to this letter.

To register your child to participate in the mass testing programme and ongoing serial testing (7 day testing of contacts of positive cases) please complete the online form [here](#) by 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021. A separate form will be required for each child attending Chertsey High School. If you have any questions regarding the registration or consent process, please contact Mrs Struthers ([struthersc@chertseyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:struthersc@chertseyhighschool.co.uk)). Please note that if a parent or child does not consent to the testing and is later identified as a contact of a confirmed positive case, they will be required to self-isolate in line with the latest government guidelines.

Please note that those students taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. Testing will be free of charge.

### **Test Results**

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually, results will take around half an hour from testing. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified of a positive result.

Headteacher: Mrs Zelia Munnik

Telephone: 01932 598020

Chertsey Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2EP

Email: [info@chertseyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:info@chertseyhighschool.co.uk) [www.chertseyhighschool.co.uk](http://www.chertseyhighschool.co.uk)

Company Registration No: 07768726 VAT Registration No: 200109287



# CHERTSEY HIGH SCHOOL

Part of the Bourne Education Trust



Bourne  
Education  
Trust

Transforming schools... changing lives

Students and staff who test positive will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). Chertsey High School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **Volunteering**

Trying to staff this operation is one of the biggest hurdles to overcome. With this in mind, if you would be interested in volunteering as part of the testing team, please contact Mr Howell ([howellc@chertseyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:howellc@chertseyhighschool.co.uk)). Full training will be provided.

At the time of writing this letter, there are still so many unknowns that we are trying to deal with. With new variants of the virus emerging and infection rates increasing daily I am sure that there will be many twists and turns yet to come. As always, we will endeavour to keep you updated as regularly as we can and thank you for your patience.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable rest of your holiday.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Z Munnik**  
**Headteacher**