

26th February 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Update 6 – Plans for the return to College

There is a lot of information in this letter – please do read it carefully, as I very much need your help with this plan.

If you have not already completed a consent form for the Lateral Flow Test, I would ask you, kindly, to consider this in light of everyone else. We do have children and staff at the College who are vulnerable – we need to protect them together. They have been heroic and every safety measure we put in place makes others feel safer.

In the last period of lockdown, we had only three children regularly attending College who were unable to wear masks, all with good reason. Our pupils were just excellent about this inconvenience. This time, it's going to be tougher because pupils are going to be asked to wear masks in class and in other indoor areas when they are not able to socially distance and are not having lunch. If your child is unable to wear a mask for clinical reasons that we are not currently aware of/are not on our records, please let us know next week. Unless we are already aware of a medical condition that prevents your child from wearing a mask, please send me a note from a clinician. We think this is common sense and I hope you feel reassured that we are taking every measure possible to protect the most vulnerable people in the College from this dreadful scourge. It's so important that we all think of everyone else constantly while this disease is with us.

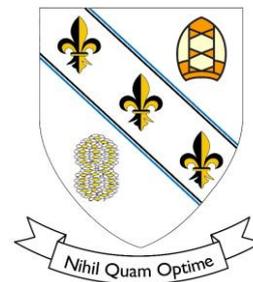
Our plans are governed by the guidance which says that school pupils must have three Lateral Flow Tests in school within two school weeks, three to five days apart. After this, pupils will receive home testing kits. We are also instructed not to start face-to-face teaching until pupils have had a test. However, we are able to bring pupils into College before it reopens in order to be tested only.

92% of our pupils come in by bus, so this is a challenge. However, we have the good fortune to run a number of our own buses and want to use this situation to get pupils tested as quickly as possible.

Our objectives through this process are to:

- Keep everyone safe by following the guidance.
- Try not to lose a minute of opportunity to get your child back into the classroom with their teachers.

We do not see this as a competition to get your child back into the classroom as quickly as possible. We have the advantage of being very small and we run many of our own buses. Every secondary school has different challenges with this, and some schools have significantly bigger ones than us. Some schools will take longer and others will take less time than us. I know that all local schools are making every effort to get pupils in as quickly as possible.



You can help us in the following ways:

- 1. If your child can take a test, please consent. We cannot make this compulsory, but think it's extremely important. If anyone is having difficulties completing the consent form, please e-mail admin@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk or telephone 01769 580215.**
- 2. If your child travels on one of the Streets buses (Ch60, Ch61, Ch62, Ch63) please send them to College (in uniform) on Tuesday 2nd March (Test 1) and Friday 5th March (Test 2).** They will be collected from their usual pick up points at the normal times. We have made arrangements with Streets Coachways to return pupils home later in the morning, as soon as they have had their test. They will be kept separate from other groups of pupils whilst they are waiting for their test.
- 3. If your child usually comes to College by car and you are driving, please bring them in (wearing uniform) on both Tuesday 2nd March (Test 1) and Friday 5th March (Test 2). The time slots are 8-9am or 1-2pm.** We ask you to wait in the car whilst your child has the test. Parking will be available at the back of school (by the playing field) and your child will be met by a member of staff.
- 4. If your child walks to College, please send them in (wearing uniform) for a test (time slot 2-3pm) on both Tuesday 2nd March (Test 1) and Friday 5th March (Test 2).** Pupils should go straight to the Drama Hall, where they will be met by a member of staff.

If your child cannot come in for the test on Friday 5th March, please do not send them on Tuesday 2nd March, because tests have to be 3-5 days apart.

If you are unable to send your child in next week, they will be tested on Tuesday 9th March. The process will be considerably easier if you are able to send your child in next week (only if they walk to College, are driven, or take Streets Coachways buses).

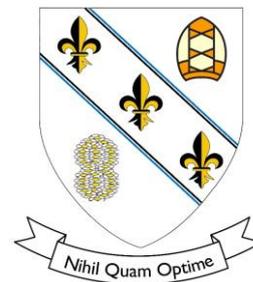
On Monday 8th March, pupils on Devon County buses (the majority of our pupils) will have (test 1) and will be in College all day. They will have purposeful work to do and will be kept in their bus bubble for that day only. (Test 2) will be on Thursday 11th March.

On Tuesday 9th March, the College will reopen for all pupils. Any pupils that were not tested during the week commencing 1st March or on 8th March will be tested on this date.

We have suspended any live lessons that were scheduled on the days of the initial lateral flow tests. Live lessons will therefore not take place on Tuesday 2nd March, Friday 5th March and Monday 8th March. Teachers will still set work on these days, but your child will not receive negative behaviour marks if it is not completed due to them attending College for a test.

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We will need many of our catering staff to help us by conducting the tests and, to get the tests done quickly, we need many test bays. Therefore only cold food will be available in the College during this period, although we can manage to send warm food to the Trust primary schools.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support with this. We are here to educate your child alongside you and, to do this well, we will address all challenges presented and demonstrate in another way how Chulmleigh College is a great school.

A revised risk assessment will be sent out next week.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M Johnson'.

M Johnson
Executive Headteacher