

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

Northwood Way, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB9 6ET

T: 01895 822108 F: 01895 822414 E: info@theharefieldacademy.org

W: www.theharefieldacademy.org

Headteacher: Tash Hurtado BA PGCE



28th January 2021

Update following the Prime Minister's announcement regarding the reopening of schools.

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and that the challenges of lockdown and facilitating remote learning have not been too difficult for you. I would like to echo the messages conveyed in recent correspondence from my colleagues in congratulating the way in which students have engaged so positively with this unfamiliar way of learning.

We have been advised that subject to the continued successful rollout of the Covid vaccine, schools are expected to commence opening for all students from 8th March 2021. This is all the detail we have, and we are aware it may be a phased reopening or indeed delayed from this point. However, we remain optimistic and are working towards this date to be ready for welcoming back our students.

With this in mind, I am sending home a consent form and associated information regarding mass testing on site using lateral flow devices. The majority of our staff have been working from the school site since returning in January. As a result, both they and our cohort of students eligible to attend, have been undergoing twice weekly testing for Covid-19. This has been very successful and highly reassuring for all concerned to know that the school is as safe as possible and free of infection.

We will be rolling out this extensive testing offer to all students as they return. Whilst it is not compulsory, I hope you will take on board that it is the best way to protect your child, your household, and the wider community.

I am attaching with the letter:

- A privacy notice.
- A FAQ document regarding data protection.
- A consent form for your child.

Please be reassured that our testing area has been set up following all government and NHS guidance, in line with a detailed risk assessment and subject to a full certified training programme for all staff involved in administering and recording test results.

We would request that consent forms are returned as soon as possible so that we can start collating a schedule to invite students in for testing. We intend to test all students who have consented, twice before their return to school on 8th March. This will be predominantly taking place from 26th February. Once students are back on site from 8th March, testing will then continue twice weekly. Please be aware that students administer the test themselves with guidance from trained staff, but that only the child touches the swab and takes their sample (from both the back of the throat and the nostril).

I hope very much you are able to support us in ensuring as many members of our school community are regularly tested. Do please feel free to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Please could all consent forms be returned to ldonnelly@theharefieldacademy.org

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tash', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tash Hurtado, Headteacher