



**Principal:** Helen Corbett

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope your child is looking forward to joining us in September. As you may be aware, secondary schools are expected to set up an on-site lateral flow testing programme to support the safe return of students and to help identify any asymptomatic cases when we return in the autumn term. We recognise that this will be something that our Year 7 students will not have experienced before. Consequently, we wanted to write to you before the summer holiday to provide as much clarity around the process as possible.

### Phased Return

There will be a phased return to school for all year groups allowing us to implement our on-site testing programme (please see the attached overview of the phased return). This will also support Year 7 students in their transition as they will be testing on a separate day to other year groups and will be the first year group to return to lessons. This will allow more time for Year 7 students to become familiar with their surroundings whilst fewer students are on site.

Students will be encouraged to take 2 lateral flow tests onsite at designated times with the rest of their form (please see below for your child's appointment times). Year 7 students will have their first test on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September and will return home for the rest of the day. Students do not need to be in school uniform for their first test. They will start their autumn term the following day (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September), provided the test is negative. The second test will take place during lesson time on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

### Appointment Times

Form	Test 1 <b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	Test 2 (period) <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>
7SGN	8.50am	Period 1 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)
7PCK	9.20am	Period 1 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)
7DNN	9.50am	Period 1 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)
7STE	10.20am	Period 1 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)
7KSY	11.20am	Period 2 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)
7EWN	11.50am	Period 2 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)
7JES	12.55pm	Period 2 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)
7RTT	1.25pm	Period 2 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)
7CDE	1.55pm	Period 3 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)
7SLY	2.25pm	Period 3 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)

### Testing arrangements

Below is a step by step guide for how our testing process will operate. Our testing centre will be based in the gym on upper site. Members of staff will be on hand to direct your child where to go when they arrive at school.

1. Students arrive at upper site at their designated time and line up in their forms at the side of the sports hall. A member of staff will be on hand to show students where to line up.
2. Students will be asked to enter the testing centre via the rear fire doors and directed to a registration desk where they will be registered for their test by a member of staff.

3. Once they have registered they will be asked to enter the gym and guided towards a testing booth.
4. At the testing booth a trained member of staff will provide guidance and support to students as they go through the self-swabbing process. The self-swab process involves two nasal swabs. Throat swabs are no longer necessary.
5. Once they have completed the self-swab, students will be free to go home after test 1 or return to lessons after test 2.

### **Consent**

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the Google consent form on the link below. If you do not want your child to be tested, there is no need to complete the consent form and your child can come in with the rest of Year 7 students on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

<https://forms.gle/HBPj41QsMBcF4TF26>

You will need to complete a separate form for each child that attends George Spencer Academy. We will be unable to test your child if this form has not been completed. Attached to this letter is a privacy notice outlining how personal data will be used.

### **Test Results**

Test results will be sent to the email address and mobile number provided on the consent form. If the test is negative, students will come in for their first day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. In the event of a positive result, the school will contact you and your child will need to take a confirmatory PCR test and self-isolate for 10 days (unless the PCR comes back as negative).

### **Social Distancing Measures**

Face masks will be optional. The testing centre has been designed to ensure students are 2 metres apart at all times. Appointment times have been allocated to ensure a safe number of students are in the centre at any time. If your child is worried about taking a test, please reassure them that whilst they may feel some discomfort, it does not cause any pain and only takes a few seconds. In addition, members of staff will be on hand to provide support and reassurance.

We will support our pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,



Jonathan Dakers  
Assistant Principal