Thomas Gainsborough School

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Message Type: Email
Subject: TGS - Covid testing - January 2022

THOMAS
GAINSBOROUGH
SCHOOL

Dear Families

We wanted to communicate with you at the earliest opportunity our plans for students returning to school in the new year.

The government has specified that all pupils of secondary age should be tested for covid prior to coming back to school in January.

To enable us to facilitate this, reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education, we will be implementing a phased start to the new term to allow the testing to be completed safely.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES:

* Tuesday 4th January 2022 - Students in years 10,11,12,13will be tested in the Sports Hall
* Wednesday 5th January 2022 - Students in years 7,8,9 will be tested in the Sports Hall.
* Thursday 6th January 2022 - All students to attend for their first full day of term

Please can we ask that you:

1. book a test time online using Parents Evening System - https://tgschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/

2. come to the sports centre via Head Lane for the test at the correct time

3. following the test, help them register the barcode from the test kit online - https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit

FURTHER INFORMATION

Step 1: Book a time for the on-site covid test

We have provided more appointment slots than required so you should be able to choose a convenient time on the designated day. The booking system can be used to book tests for multiple children on the same day, but you may need to choose different days if your children are not in connected year groups. If there are valid difficulties in finding a suitable time slot or you need to change a time slot please contact us. Book a time using the school parents evening system (the same system we used for Transition evenings and Academic Review Days).

Step 2: Come to the sports centre for the covid test

The test process itself is conducted under carefully controlled conditions to make it as safe as possible for those testing and those being tested. To enable a safe and smooth process we ask that:

*your child arrives, ideally accompanied by a single adult, as close to their appointment time as possible

*come to the Sports Centre reception, parking is available in the car park off Head Lane;

*they are dressed smartly, but do not need to be in school uniform;

*adults may remain outside, or accompany their child if they are nervous;

*do not use phones within the testing area;

*please wear masks within the testing area.

It is especially important that under no circumstances do students or accompanying adults attend if they have any possible symptoms of covid. Specifically do not attend if symptoms such as a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a change or loss of taste or smell are being experienced. If they have any of these symptoms they must use the NHS 111 services to book a PCR test at an NHS testing site.

A simple guide explaining how students swab themselves is attached.

Students conduct this test themselves, under the guidance from a member of the testing team who is two metres away. Students only need to swab both nostrils, instead of the sides of the throats near their tonsils and high up one nostril. Any nose piercings will need to be removed prior to arrival to allow the swabbing to take place.

Here is a helpful video showing the process - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDcEE071jeo , the first 3 minutes shows how to test yourself and may be a good idea to watch in preparation.

If your child is nervous you can accompany them to the testing area and help them complete the swabbing.

Step 3: Register your contact details to receive the result of the test

We will complete the testing process after the swab is taken. Students may leave after swabbing. The results take around 15 minutes to process. If the result is positive we will telephone you to let you know.

Please also register the test kit online - https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit .This helps the NHS track the number of tests completed and gives you a record of the result. Students will receive a letter with information on how to register the kit and the barcode for their kit. The website to register the kit test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit is different to the site for recording a result from a home test.

You can find links to our resources related to testing for covid on this page, https://tgschool.net/covid-testing

If you have any questions about testing of students for covid or the booking system which are not answered on the website please either telephone the school or email testing@tgschool.net.

Regards,

Thomas Gainsborough School

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