



**PEMBROKE**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**RE: Phased Return to School and Asymptomatic Testing**

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the government announcement on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February the time has come to plan the welcome of our Pembroke students back into school. As you will be aware, from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March schools will begin a phased re-opening. The details of this return have been planned carefully to ensure all students can receive three 'asymptomatic COVID tests' and crucially everyone is kept as safe as possible.

**Phased Return**

The government guidance states that students can return to face-to-face learning after a negative result from a COVID test. We will be testing all students in school. Details of the phased return, including tests, is as follows:

**Years 9, 10 and 11:**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March:** Students attend a pre-booked test at Pembroke and then return home to continue remote learning for the remainder of the day. Details of how to book can be found below.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March:** Students can return to school and begin their regular timetable from 8:40am providing their test result is negative.

**Years 7 and 8:**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March:** Students attend a pre-booked test at Pembroke, and then return home to continue remote learning for the remainder of the day. Details of how to book can be found below.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March:** Students can return to school and begin their regular timetable from 8:40am providing their test result is negative.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March Home Learning for those not in school will be set via SharePoint. There will be no live lessons delivered. ***Vulnerable and critical worker children continue to attend as previously arranged during these two days.***

Before and after school clubs will begin on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

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The Priory Pembroke Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, Cross O'Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW **Telephone:** 01522 889977

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### **Asymptomatic Testing**

In January Pembroke created a COVID Test Centre on site. Testing has been provided for all students and staff who have been attending during school closure and the administration of the tests has been successful.

On return to school, all students (including the vulnerable and critical worker groups) can access three tests at our COVID Test Centre. The rationale for the students to complete three tests is to ensure they are competent in administering tests in order to complete home testing in the future. More details of home testing will be shared with you at a later date.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. Although testing remains voluntary, I am strongly encouraging those returning to Pembroke to be tested.

#### **How the tests work**

A dedicated team of Pembroke staff have worked hard to become trained and set up the testing centre within school. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Registering for tests is easier if the student has a smart phone with a QR reader function, although this is not compulsory, tests can be registered for without a phone. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with further information.

#### **IMPORTANT - Consent**

We require all parents/carers to complete a consent form online for each child. The consent form can be found through this link: [CONSENT FORM](#). Children cannot test without having already given consent.

***Please ensure the consent form is completed and you indicate if you do OR do not give consent. Do not book a test until consent has been given.***

#### **IMPORTANT - Testing Bookings**

In order for all students to be able to access a test on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March we are running a booking system. The system is simple to use. Please ensure you only make one booking for the correct day (Years 9-11 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March / Years 7-8 on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March).

Access to the booking system can be found through this link: [BOOK A TEST](#)

Tests must be booked at least 24 hours in advance of the test time (e.g. for a test at 10am on Monday, book before 10am on Sunday).

### **Safe Practice within school**

Further details of temporary changes in safe practice were also given in the latest government announcement. It is important that we update and remind all students, parents/carers and staff of safe practice within Pembroke:

**Face masks must be worn at all times when inside the school buildings.** This includes during lessons in classrooms. Exceptions are only given for those with a medical condition, or when taking part in certain aspects of PE lessons. All students will need to provide their own well-fitting face mask and keep a spare mask with them. Use of face masks will be reviewed by the government at the end of this term. Government guidance on face masks can be found through this [LINK](#).

**Social distancing must be maintained wherever possible.** Our systems of control within classrooms ensures all students face forward and there is sufficient airflow through the room. Students will need to continue to be responsible for maintaining social distancing at social times, when moving between classrooms and travelling to and from school.

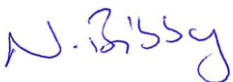
**Catch It, Bin It, Kill It remains standard practice.** This helps stop the spread of any virus. Tissues are available in classrooms.

**Hand washing and sanitising are vital forms of stopping the spread of the virus.** Hand sanitiser is available throughout our site and hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

**Anyone showing any COVID symptoms should not attend school, should self-isolate and inform Pembroke.** We will support all students and parents/carers during this time and can provide guidance on next steps.

As has been said many times before, this has been a strange and difficult period for everyone. I extend my gratitude to all students and parents for the support given in the last 12 months. Achieving together has never been more appropriate! As ever, if you have any questions, comments or queries you can contact the office via our usual contact details at the bottom of the page or via [pembroke@poryacademies.co.uk](mailto:pembroke@poryacademies.co.uk).

Kind regards and take care,



Mr N Bibby  
Assistant Head  
Personal Development and Relationships