



GRACE COLLEGE
Emmanuel Schools Foundation

1 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

After a really challenging year, it is vital that we re-establish community and enable students to be fully supported in their learning and development. I look forward to re-connecting with each student and their family as we enter this new year.

Patterns of attendance have suffered huge disruption due to the pandemic and this will have influenced achievement and progress so every student must aim for 100% attendance next year. Students are expected to attend school every day. The good news is that students will no longer be required to isolate if they have a possible contact. NHS Test and Trace will take full control of notifying children and adults. They will be required to take a full PCR test and will only isolate if they get a positive result. Students who test positive for COVID must isolate and follow the NHS guidelines to keep themselves and others safe.

Students will have a phased return next week.

Year 7, 11 and Sixth Form Students will return on Wednesday 8 September.

Year 8, 9 and 10 students will return on Thursday 9 September.

It is important to have a positive start to the year and make sure that everyone attends from their first day in September. We will be supporting each student to strive for 100% attendance. Every single day of absence has an impact on a child's education.

Schools across England are required to begin the Autumn Term with in school testing for COVID 19 to provide a degree of reassurance to parents, students and staff and to ensure we reduce the asymptomatic transmission of the virus.

All students will have the opportunity to be tested twice.

The NHS have trained a number of our staff to carry out these 'Lateral Flow Tests' (LFTs) for Covid 19, and provided the equipment for us to do so.

Year 9 & 10 will be asked to do a test on Thursday 9 September when they return and again on Tuesday 14 September.

We are very grateful for, and must acknowledge, the extensive support we have received from students and their families as we navigate our way through the pandemic together.

Testing for those without coronavirus symptoms seeks to identify any asymptomatic carriers. By testing we will help to stop the virus spreading and keep our College open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary; however, I would encourage everyone to take it.

We intend to test all staff and students, who agree to participate, during the first few days in September. The testing facilities are now in place for us to do this and the risk assessments have been completed.

Mark Hall Principal

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Thank you to all those who volunteered to assist with this program with staffing the Test Facility at Grace College. If there are others willing to volunteer then please contact the school. This will include assisting with the processing and recording of the 'Lateral Flow Tests'.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'Lateral Flow Tests' are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For students in Years 7-11, staff will oversee the swab process. Sixth form students will take their own test in school and submit this for the results to be recorded.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and students participating.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

NHS test and trace service will follow up on all cases, and will advise you directly following a positive test result on what you are required to do. The new regulations expected for September mean that there will be reduced self-isolating for close contacts, but those with positive symptoms will still need to self isolate.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at College is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Please be in touch with your child's tutor, in the first instance for any support. As always you can email any query to enquiries@gracecollege.org.uk.

We are determined to support our students and staff throughout this most difficult time.
Remember, ***"Alone we can do little; together we can do so much!"*** (Helen Keller)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mf Hall'.

Mr M Hall
Principal