



29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been great to have students back into Warblington School, learning and socialising once more. Contrary to what is often said in the media, the way the students have conducted themselves in their mask wearing and lateral flow testing has been nothing short of exceptional, and prompted a number of comments from the volunteers who have been helping us during this half term. We are hoping that as the Summer Term begins, we can once again go back to concentrating on high quality teaching and learning.

This letter contains some important information regarding students during the Easter break and once they return on 19<sup>th</sup> April.

### COVID Home Testing

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all students for their level of maturity and engagement with the recent lateral flow testing programme undertaken at school. We have completed in excess of 2000 tests with all year groups now having been issued with their first pack of home testing kits.

The Department for Education has recently updated schools and colleges on the plans for lateral flow testing as we approach the end of this term and the Easter break. All students for whom we have parental consent for testing will be provided with more home testing kits and these will be distributed by their tutor before the end of term on Thursday, 1st April.

### Using Classcharts to Log Test outcomes

Students should continue to test themselves twice a week (Sun/Weds evening) and logging their results with the NHS Test and Trace portal and with us via the new reporting tab on Classcharts during the Easter break (please see attached). Students will be shown how to do this in tutor time during this week. This is a change from previous, but allows us to more rigorously check testing results.

### In the event of a positive Covid-19 Test

It is important that if they do test positive that you notify us immediately via the COVID-19 reporting email address [covid@warblingtonschool.co.uk](mailto:covid@warblingtonschool.co.uk). Please also use this email address to inform us of any linked family cases that will impact upon a students' attendance on return from the Easter break due to observing the 10 day self-isolation period.

We have been asked by the DfE to continue tracing if a student reports a positive test over the Easter weekend, so please be aware that the school may contact you over the bank holiday weekend if a positive test affects your child.

In addition, we would like students to complete a test the night before or on the morning before they return to school (Mon 19th April). Home testing will remain in place after Easter (as far as we know at this stage) and further testing kits will be provided in due course.

### **Wearing of face coverings after Easter**

We are awaiting guidance from the DfE on whether face coverings in classrooms will remain a necessity after the Easter break. At the time of writing, this has yet to be defined and so unless you receive information via Parentmail confirming this is changing, we would ask that you continue to provide a face covering after the break. As the media have reported, the age group of 11-18 have seen the largest rise in cases nationally, so I suspect the government will be analysing the data carefully before issuing schools with further guidance.

### **Year 7 Parents' Evening**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the year 7 consultation evening is this Wednesday and will give you an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their subject teacher. The link to book your virtual appointments is here.

<https://warblington.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Following that evening, the link to the parent survey will go live, and I would encourage you to complete it so we get a full picture of your opinions of how we are doing as a school. It takes around 3 minutes to complete and there is an opportunity at the bottom to leave your contact details if you want a response to something highlighted in your survey.

<https://forms.office.com/r/6aeZ9mhrDS>

### **Parentmail / Weduc**

Finally, prior to May half term, we will be moving away from Parentmail for communications and payment and working with a similar company called Weduc. This will enable all the facilities that Parentmail had, but will also has more advance features which will allow greater two-way communication, attendance reporting and electronic progress reporting. We will continue to use Parentmail whilst the changeover happens, but please keep an eye out for this!

As I often seem to end my letters to you, I would like to say thank you for your ongoing support in the safe return to school for Warblington students. Without your support with face coverings, lateral flow testing along with the really important area of your child's progress in school, it really wouldn't work.

Have a restful Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Hartnell  
Headteacher