



Dear Parents/Carers and students

Newsletter (43) – 9th March 2021

We are looking forward to seeing all students back in school tomorrow. Years 10-13 are in school today and have settled back into their lessons. Years 7 to 9 are arriving throughout the day for their testing. The test centre is very impressive, with lots of staff, parents and 6th Form students on hand to reassure students. Thank you again to everyone who has made this happen.

We know there will be many students who are looking forward to being back in school but also some anxious students this week. Please be reassured that there is very good support available for students. I would remind parents and students that there was a lot of detail about returning to school in [newsletter 42](#) that everyone should read before returning. As always, we have high expectations of our students, and if everyone shows great behaviour and attitudes to learning, we can settle back into school life smoothly.

Laptops:

If you borrowed a school laptop during lockdown, please ensure that your child returns this on the first day of full taught lessons when they return to school. The laptop should be taken to the main school reception. We lent out approximately 150 laptops during lockdown, including some kindly donated by the amazing Witney Access to Learning beyond School group. We now need these back in school to continue to benefit our students.

Lunches:

Now we are back at school and the Restaurant is open please can you check your child's lunch accounts and ensure that they are topped-up with funds.

If you are having problems accessing your Parentpay account please contact the finance office financeoffice@wgsnitney.org.uk.

Year 11 and 13

Look out for a separate message today about GCSE and A Level grading.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Shadbolt
Headteacher

We have been asked to pass the following message to families from Oxfordshire County Council:

Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test. Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.