



Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form

Executive Headteacher and CEO of NEMAT: Rob James



26 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Students

As you are likely aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all students from **8 March 2021**. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back more of our students to face-to-face education then.

School attendance

The latest [government guidance](#) on school reopening says we can welcome students back on a phased basis during the week of 8 March 2021. We have not yet finalised the details of the phased return of students. School attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, students should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive;
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive;
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive.

In line with the latest government guidance, students who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice. If this is the case, please send a copy of your child's shielding letter to enquiries@notleyhigh.com

Coronavirus testing

To help us keep everyone safe, we will be offering rapid coronavirus testing to all our students as they return from 8 March 2021. Students will be asked to take 3 coronavirus tests at school, with 3 to 5 days between each test. Test results will take about 30 minutes to process.

Students can return to school after their first negative result. If at any point they test positive, they will need to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

Testing is voluntary, and you and/or your child will need to give consent for it to be carried out. However, we strongly encourage your child to take part so we can help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

"Working together, achieving together"

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, Notley Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 1WY

☎ 01376 556300 ☎ 01376 550991 ✉ enquiries@notleyhigh.com 🌐 www.notleyhigh.com

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form is an academy within the North Essex Multi-Academy Trust and a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (company number 7687474). Registered office as above.





Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form



Executive Headteacher and CEO of NEMAT: Rob James

We need to gain your consent prior to testing. Please complete the consent form by Wednesday 3 March 2021, by clicking on [Consent Form](#) or

[orhttps://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pGSzktqF0WtMGeWgmb4JpDeqyQ_eatAobR5iXzqHxZUMINGUDlaWks3UIRONFRHWFNaTjU1SjlyNi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pGSzktqF0WtMGeWgmb4JpDeqyQ_eatAobR5iXzqHxZUMINGUDlaWks3UIRONFRHWFNaTjU1SjlyNi4u)

If your child is not participating in testing, they should attend school as usual in line with our phased return arrangements.

After the 3 initial tests at school, students will be offered coronavirus tests that they should take twice a week at home. This will commence from 22 March 2021, and more information will be communicated as to how this will work over the next week.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process, but the students must carry out their own swab. If you feel your child requires additional support to carry out the swab, we can arrange for you to accompany them so you can assist them. Staff are not allowed to carry out the swab itself - only offer guidance from a safe distance.

Results (which take approximately 30 minutes from testing) will be shared directly with staff and students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity, but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently. Testing will be offered free of charge.

Registration

To process the test, we will register all participating students. We will use the information collected in the online form to register students.

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. Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home, or you can access www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. During this time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

"Working together, achieving together"

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, Notley Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 1WY

☎ 01376 556300 ☎ 01376 550991 ✉ enquiries@notleyhigh.com 🌐 www.notleyhigh.com

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form is an academy within the North Essex Multi-Academy Trust and a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (company number 7687474). Registered office as above.





Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form

Executive Headteacher and CEO of NEMAT: Rob James



What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. Further details will be provided at the time.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school 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 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Privacy Notice

There is a separate attachment detailing the privacy notice, and the processing of your personal data, please ensure you read this in full.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can email enquiries@notleyhigh.com

Yours faithfully

Mr R James
CEO/Executive Headteacher

Dr C Cusick
Head of School

"Working together, achieving together"

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, Notley Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 1WY

☎ 01376 556300 ☎ 01376 550991 ✉ enquiries@notleyhigh.com 🌐 www.notleyhigh.com

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form is an academy within the North Essex Multi-Academy Trust and a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (company number 7687474). Registered office as above.

