



Watford Grammar School for Boys

Rickmansworth Road, Watford WD18 7JF Tel: (01923) 208900 Fax: (01923) 208901

www.watfordboys.org

Headmaster: Mr I Cooksey MA (Oxon) MA (Lond)

16th July 2021

Dear parents/ carers

Your son may have already received his package from school containing his new House colour t-shirt and his summer activity booklet along with a letter from his House Prefect, either way I hope that he is beginning to be excited for his new school, albeit slightly nervous too perhaps!

You may have seen the Headmaster's letter (dated 13th July) regarding the start of term arrangements. In it he outlined the way the school is responding to the requirement to conduct two lateral flow tests on site for each student in September. The possibility of this was also alluded to by Mr Chase, Head of Year 7, in his communication home a couple of weeks ago.

We can now confirm that the first of these tests is required before your son can mix with his new year group and the second one will be done within five days of the first. Both of these will be done in school. This should identify asymptomatic Covid cases. Therefore we are inviting our new year 7s into school on Wednesday 1st September to receive their first test.

Whilst for our older children this will be 'old hat', we are aware that our new year 7s may have more questions about this. To help allay your concerns and to explain the process, I am including some FAQs here.

When do I bring my son into school for this?

The rota below indicates the time your son should arrive at school for his test on Wednesday 1st September:

7B	11:40		7N	12:40
7C	11:55		7P	14:00
7F	12:10		7R	14:15
7G	12:25		7T	14:30

Please note - there will be no opportunity to meet your son's teachers at this session.

As you can see, we will be testing multiple students at once, please do arrive on time for your test; neither earlier nor later!

I am away that day, can my son be tested another time?

It is important that Year 7 are tested ahead of Thursday as we do not want them to miss out on the planned fun activities. However, we recognise that there may be a small number of instances where it is not possible to attend on 1st September (e.g. a planned holiday) and we will put other arrangements in place.

What test will be used?

We understand that the test will be the new Orient Gene test. This involves a swab up the nose (not the additional swab down the throat as was common previously). More information about this test can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-home-test-kit-instructions-for-nose-only-test>

Do I have to have my son tested?

Tests are voluntary, not compulsory. We would urge you to have your son tested in order to support the safety of the whole community, however.

Do you have to have my consent for this test? Will my son be tested without my knowledge?

The school must have written consent from a parent for their son to be tested for Covid in school. The consent form is attached to the bottom of this letter. If you can print and complete the consent form below and bring it with you into school when you drop off your son, that would be very helpful. We will also provide some forms printed out for you to fill in, in case you do not have access to a printer.

We will never test your son without your knowledge or consent.

What should my son wear?

Whilst the letter from the Head Master asked students to wear uniform, we are able to relax this requirement for year 7s, bearing in mind your son will come into school on Thursday 2nd September in his house t-shirt and on the Friday 3rd September in full uniform, looking smart!

Where do I drop him off ? What is the process?

Please bring your son to the Shephard's Road entrance to school where he will be met by staff. Staff will guide him through every aspect of the test and explain to you where to meet him afterwards. You may wish to remain near to school as the whole process is unlikely to take more than 10 minutes. You will be notified of the results by email or text. It is vital you arrive at your given time, as stated above. Please leave the site swiftly.

There will be no parking on site.

What if my son tests positive?

If your son tests positive he will need to isolate, as may other members of his household. Current guidelines say for ten days. The requirements may be different in September.

My son has Special Needs - how will you support him?

Boys with specific needs should come into school between 2.45 and 3pm for their tests, when the site is quieter. Only those boys may attend with one adult to help guide them through the process and support them. We will also provide a Learning Support Assistant from our team for this purpose. **Parents of these students will be notified separately.**

All of the above is of course subject to possible changes over the summer. You will be able to find up to date information on our website on the 'New Year 7s' page, where you can also find a general FAQs document that you may find useful.

In the meantime, I wish you a peaceful summer.

With Kind Regards
Mrs Messik



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I consent to my son _____ (full name) date of birth _____ in form 7_____ to be tested for COVID at school and for any data from that test to be passed on to relevant NHS authorities and held by the school for reporting and recording processes.

Name _____
(print)

Signed _____

Date _____

Relationship to child _____