



Introduction

You will know that we are working hard to keep Mount Kelly as safe as possible, and we remain enormously grateful to our parents for their unstinting support. Recent developments, however, suggest that the global and national situation remains precarious, and though the Mount Kelly community has been relatively unscathed so far, we must continue to do everything we can to keep ourselves safe.

The next stage in our national response to this crisis is, as you know, a staged (and now delayed) return to school and the implementation of a mass-testing programme for all secondary age pupils and all staff, and these are central to our plans for the start of the Lent Term.

You will have seen the outline plan set out on the last Staff Update (30 Dec). The purpose of this note is to set out in greater detail how we will resume teaching, and how we will implement the government's mass testing programme.

Clearly, the wind may shift again, and the government is under pressure to bring English schools in line with those in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with further postponement to the return of pupils to school, but for now we will set our sails according to the way the wind is currently blowing.

Testing

As you are aware, Mount Kelly will be engaging in the national programme for testing pupils and staff without coronavirus symptoms using the new, quicker lateral flow tests [LFT]. This is not only a central strand of the government's policy to contain the spread of the virus, but will also enable close contacts of those who test positive for COVID-19 to remain in school, rather than having to isolate, by taking a daily test for seven days after the last known contact. This is known as 'serial testing'. One great advantage of the LFT is the speed at which results are known; instead of the 48 hours which is usual for the standard PCR test, the result of a LFT is generally known within 45 minutes.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus have no symptoms, so these tests will help staff and pupils to live and work together safely, reduce the disruption to your children's education, and – in the last resort – save lives. Any pupil who would rather not be tested has the right not to do so, but we would strongly encourage all pupils from Year 7 upwards to engage in the testing programme.

We do, however, require parental consent for testing. If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the online proforma using this [link](#). There is no pressure on any pupil to enrol in the testing programme, though clearly the more pupils that take part, the more secure will be the school environment.

Time, however, is of the essence, so we would be most grateful if you could complete the proforma by **18:00 UK time on Tue 5 Jan**.

The LFT will be supervised by trained staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. It is quick, easy and painless to self-administer, using a swab of the nose and throat. We would stress that the test has been tested at Public Health England's research laboratories in partnership with Oxford University and is totally safe, with a 99.8% specificity.

Supporting the testing programme for pupils

Very significant funding has been offered to the maintained sector, but the government has made it clear that such funding and logistical support will not be made available to schools in the independent sector. We must therefore look to our own resources as far as possible, and any help would be greatly appreciated.

You will notice that the online proforma, asking for your consent to be tested, also asks if you would be prepared to help with the administration of the testing programme. If you do volunteer to help, full training and PPE will be provided, though for certain roles what is required is nothing more onerous than basic pupil supervision and management. Please be assured that the very particular pleasure of having to stick something up a teenager's nose is reserved for our Health Centre staff.

Answers to some questions which we imagine would be frequently asked

What if my child tests positive?

Positive test results will be shared directly with the pupil and relevant staff, and where participants are under sixteen, parents will also be informed. Pupils over the age of sixteen will be asked their permission for the School to share their test results with their parents.

Pupils who test positive using the LFT will be isolated and sent home or, if they are unable to go home, will be moved into the isolation accommodation. They will then need to take a further PCR test to confirm the positive result. Boarders will either be able to do this in school or will be taken to a test centre. Day pupils will take a test kit home. During the time that they are waiting for the PCR result they must self-isolate. If the PCR test result is negative, the pupils can return to school, regardless of the fact that the LFT was positive.

If the result of the PCR test is positive, the pupil and all their household members must, of course, self-isolate for ten days. As always, parents must keep the school closely informed.

What if my child is a close contact of a pupil who tests positive?

A close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 using a LFT or a PCR test will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for seven days, and on each day the test result is negative.

If your son or daughter does not agree to take part in serial testing, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of Mount Kelly, who will still need to self-isolate.

What if my child tests negative?

A pupil whose LFT result is negative will remain in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil and his/her parents will be told only if they tested positive in the first LFT, so if you do not hear from us you can assume your child's test result was negative.

What if my child develops symptoms?

The LFT testing programme is for pupils with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss of change to your sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or by visiting this [website](#).

Testing and the return to school

As you might imagine, management of the testing regime and the return to school requires some complicated choreography, so it is important that you and your children understand exactly what is required, particularly in terms of where they must be and when.

Though government guidance suggests that pupils may return to the classroom before they have been tested, it is our clear view that in order to protect the community, and in particular the integrity of the boarding houses, pupils should be tested before moving more freely around the school. That said, it is a complicated situation and so whilst best efforts will be made to achieve this, it may be that there is some slippage. This does not invalidate the objective, nor does the fact that testing is voluntary in the first place.

You will notice, in the testing schedule at Appendix A to this Update, that there are two testing windows for day pupils, on Sundays (10 Jan for pupils in Year 11 and the Upper Sixth, and 17 Jan for pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and Lower Sixth).

We appreciate that this may be an imposition on the weekend, but it will enable us to manage the testing more easily, reduce the impact on teaching time, and help considerably in preventing the spread of infection into the wider school community.

Though there will, of course, be further opportunities for pupils to be tested, we would ask that the parents of day pupils make every effort to bring their sons and daughters into school on the relevant Sunday.

The plan for the resumption of school is therefore complicated and prescriptive, and we appreciate that it may well create some inconvenience – particularly those sitting in their cars on the Parade Ground, drumming their fingers on the steering wheel, whilst they wait for their child’s test result. By way of consolation, it is our intention to set up a tea & coffee shack on the Parade Ground.

The full details for each constituency – every year group, boarders and day pupils – are set out in Appendix A to this Update. The follow-on tests, which must be completed between three and seven days after the initial test, will be conducted during school time, so should not impact on your plans.

Testing for *ad hoc* arrivals

The testing programme as set out in Appendices A is very thorough, and should capture all pupil constituencies. We are aware, however, that overseas pupils in particular may arrive at unpredictable times throughout the day and night.

There will be other opportunities to be tested, for example by joining in another session, or at one of the serial testing sessions in the morning, and we are also able to offer some *ad hoc* testing in the boarding houses and Health Centres.

It is stressed, however, that the capacity for *ad hoc* testing is very limited indeed, and we would ask parents – and particularly those of day pupils – to support the school by doing all they can to ensure their children attend at the prescribed times.

Testing and other measures

It is important to stress the point made by the government, that the testing programme in no way enables us to lower our guard in other areas, and it is worth quoting the guidance in full:

Schools should make clear to staff and pupils that a negative test result does not remove the risk of transmission. In some cases, someone who has tested negative may still have undetected disease and be infectious. It is therefore essential that everyone continues to follow good hygiene and observe social distancing measures whether or not they have been tested. Anyone who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 who returns a negative result from a lateral flow test will still be required to self-isolate whilst the result from a lab-based PCR test is known.

The roll-out of the mass testing programme might encourage some of our pupils to become a little cavalier in their approach to wearing masks, observing social distancing, and maintaining impeccable hygiene. This must not be allowed to happen; we should continue to batten down the hatches, and we would ask all our parents to encourage their children to remain on their guard.

Temperature testing

At the Prep, all pupils will continue to have their temperatures checked on arrival, as was the case throughout last term. At the College, daily temperature testing will resume for pupils in Year 11 and Upper Sixth, and any other pupils who may be on-site, on Mon 11 Jan.

Sport, Swimming & Extra-Curricular during the first three weeks of term

In our last Parent Update we explained that, in accordance with the government guidance published on Friday 18 December, there would be no sport, extra-curricular or swimming training during the first fortnight of term. Further clarification and discussion with other schools, however, suggests that there is a greater degree of latitude here than at first indicated, and the planned extra-curricular programme for the first three weeks of term for pupils in Year 7 and above may be summarised as follows:

- Week 1 Limited activity to enable international pupils and boarding key workers' children to maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Week 2 As above, with opportunity for pupils in Year 11 and the Upper Sixth to engage in sport on Tuesday afternoon
- Week 3 A resumption of the games and activity programme that was running before Christmas

Further details will be published, as the situation becomes clearer. The performance swim programme training regime for the first two weeks of term will be published separately to the parents of swimmers.

As explained in the last Update, in order to protect the performance swim programme, pupils on the programme will be able to continue to train on condition that they take a LFT and produce a negative result. Full details of this are set out in Appendix A.

Key Workers' Children

The government has made clear that the children of key workers may return to school from Tue 5 Jan.

If you are a key worker, your child is in one of the year groups being taught remotely (Year 7 and upwards for the first week of term, then Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and Lower Sixth for the second week of term), and is a day pupil, please complete the details in the online proforma, and we will be able to make the necessary arrangements for their supervision and care.

Key worker parents of boarders should contact their child's Housemaster or Housemistress.

Key workers' children will be tested on their arrival on Tuesday morning, and will spend their time working under supervision in their day houses or in the Library, engaging with their lessons online.

International pupils

As noted in the last Update (30 Dec), those international pupils whose travel plans cannot be changed may return to their boarding houses or attend the Quarantine Camp as originally planned (having, of course, tested negative).

Boarders in school (rather than on the Quarantine Camp) will be under the supervision of their House staff, and will engage in online lessons, most likely from their boarding houses.

As explained in the previous Update, quarantine provision will be available into week 2 (week commencing Mon 11 Jan) for those pupils whose return has been delayed, but who nonetheless are required to spend time in quarantine.

School Calendar

As noted previously, there is little value in producing anything approaching a formal school calendar.

The outline plan for Lent Term internal assessments, mock examinations and parent consultations was published in the Parent Update on 11 Dec, though as you will have seen in the latest Update (30 Dec 20) there have been some amendments to this.

For clarity, the revised plan for parent consultations, internal assessments and mock examinations is as follows:

Parent Consultations

- Year 9 Fri 22 Jan and Sat 23 Jan
- Year 8 Thu 25 and Sat 27 Feb
- Upper Sixth Fri 26 Feb
- Year 3 and 4 Tue 2 and Wed 3 Mar
- Year 6 Thu 4 and Sat 6 Mar
- Pre-Prep Week commencing Mon 8 Mar
- Year 5 Wed 10 Mar
- Year 11 Fri 12 Mar and Sat 13 Mar
- Year 7 Thu 18 and Sat 20 Mar

All parent consultations will be held online. Further details of this will follow in due course.

Internal Assessments

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| • Year 7 & Year 8 | Week commencing Mon 18 Jan | Week 3 |
| • Lower Sixth | Week commencing Mon 25 Jan | Week 4 |
| • A level mock examinations | Week commencing Mon 1 Feb | Week 5 |
| • GCSE mock examinations | Week commencing Mon 22 Feb | Week 8 |
| • Year 3 to Year 6 | Week commencing Mon 22 Feb | Week 8 |
| • Year 10 | Week commencing Mon 22 Feb | Week 8 |
| • Year 9 | Week commencing Mon 1 Mar | Week 9 |
| • Lower Sixth | Week commencing Mon 1 Mar | Week 9 |

A more detailed “calendar”, showing other significant events (including weekend sport, swimming commitments, trips and adventurous training) will be published shortly, with a revised/confirmatory version sent out every Friday in the Newsletter.

Timings of the day

It may be helpful for parents of pupils engaged in online lessons to be reminded of the timings of the lessons:

COLLEGE		PREP	
Period 1	8:45	Period 1	8:45
Period 2	9:45	Period 2	9:45
Period 3	11:10	Period 3	11:10
Period 4A	12:10 6 th Form	Period 4A	12:05 Years 5 - 8
Period 4B	13:15 Years 9 – 11	Period 4B	12:55 Years 3 - 4
Period 5	14:25	Period 5	14:00
Period 6	15:25	Period 6	15:10

Our experience of online teaching during the Summer Term suggests that pupils struggle to remain focused and engaged after much more than 40 minutes, so though the structure of the day will not change (as it did during the Summer Term) we have instructed our teachers to restrict the active teaching time in each lesson to between 40 and 45 minutes. Pupils who are engaged in online lessons will be registered in the normal way, and their Tutors will be in touch early in the week, though they will not be required to “attend” private study periods.

Conclusion

As has been noted, the re-opening and testing plan is complicated, and these are uncharted waters for all of us. We understand that after the joy of Christmas and the opportunity to put into harbour to shelter from the storm, putting back out to sea is fraught with anxiety for many, and the coming months are likely to bring squalls, difficult currents, and hidden dangers. We will continue to support you and your children in whatever way we can, and remain enormously grateful to you for your support.

In the meantime, please consider this letter very carefully, discuss it and its implications with your sons and daughters, and do not hesitate to contact any member of the Senior Team at Prep or College should you have any questions or concerns.

Finally, please do take a moment for the following:

- **To read very carefully the instructions for your child's return to school.**
- **To give your assent to your child being enrolled in the testing programme using the online proforma, ideally by 18:00 GMT on Tue 5 Jan. The link to the proforma is on page 2 of this Update.**

With our very best wishes for the New Year and new term.

Testing and the return of the pupils to school

The return of pupils to school, and the process by which they will be tested, is complicated. Please review these arrangements very carefully indeed.

Boarders attending the Quarantine Camp	
Sunday 3 to Monday 4 January	At times determined by travel arrangements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils attending the Quarantine Camp will be delivered direct to the Camp, and will not come into school until their period of quarantine has been served.• They will have a LFT for reassurance purposes as soon as possible on arrival at the camp, but regardless of the result, they must remain in quarantine for at least five days• After five days they will then have a PCR test, paid for by their parents. Under the terms of the test & release programme, those pupils who return a negative test may then return to their boarding houses.• Those who do not choose to engage with the test & release programme must remain in quarantine for the full ten days.• On that basis, we should expect all quarantined pupils to be back in school early in week 2, though late arrivals into the camp will re-set the clock.	

Initial testing for boarding key workers' children [KWC], vulnerable children, and overseas boarders who are unable to alter arrival times

Monday 4 to Friday 8 January

At times determined by travel arrangements

- Because the arrival times for these boarders is determined by their travel arrangements, and their return dates and times are scattered across the week, it is impossible to tie them down to a particular testing window.
- Boarders who return at unpredictable times during the working day (8:15-18:00) should report first to Reception at Prep or College, and remain there until arrangements can be made for them to be tested.
- Boarders who return at unpredictable times outside these hours should alert their House staff to their arrival by phone, text or email.
- They will be met on arrival and tested by their House staff prior to being allowed into their boarding house.
- A boarder in this category who receives a negative test result may move into their boarding accommodation.
- A boarder in this category who has been brought to school by their parents, and who receives a positive test result, must be taken home immediately.
- A boarder who has returned to school by taxi, minibus or coach, and who tests positive, will be moved immediately into the isolation accommodation, as will all those with whom they travelled from the airport.
- Regardless of how the pupil made his/her way to school, should they test positive on arrival at the Prep, the parents of UK boarders will be required to collect them as soon as possible.

Boarders in Years 4, 5 & 6

Monday 4 January

13:00 – 19:00

- The return of pupils in these year groups has not been delayed, nor are they part of the government's testing regime.
- **They will, however, be offered a LFT test, for reassurance purposes.**
- Boarders in these year groups should report to the main entrance to Tavy House within the time bracket above, and – with the support of their parents or staff – will be tested prior to entering the boarding accommodation.
- A boarder in these year groups who receives a negative test result may then move into their boarding accommodation.
- A boarder in these year groups who has been brought to school by their parents, and who receives a positive test result, must be taken home immediately.
- A boarder who has returned to school by taxi, minibus or coach, and who tests positive, will be moved immediately into the isolation accommodation, as will all those with whom they travelled from the airport.
- Regardless of how the pupil made his/her way to school, should they test positive on arrival at the Prep, their parents of UK boarders will be required to collect them as soon as possible.
- Their school day will commence as normal on Tue 5 Jan.

Day pupils in Nursery, Reception and Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

Tuesday 5 January

8:10 – 8:30

Pupils in these year groups are not currently part of the government's mass testing programme, nor has their return to school been delayed, so should return to school as normal on Tue 5 Jan, reporting to their classroom teachers at the time shown above.

Initial testing for pupils on the performance swim programme in any year group who wish to train between Wed 6 and Sat 16 Jan

Tuesday 5 January

16:00 – 20:00 in Big School

In order to support the performance swim programme, pupils in any year group may train during the first two weeks of term, but under the following conditions:

1. They must return a negative test result prior to entering the pool building. Details of this are set out below.
2. The only test result which will be accepted is that generated by the school's own testing regime.
3. Pupils who wish to take advantage of this opportunity must adhere scrupulously to social distancing protocols, and must not move beyond the precinct of the pool building. They should arrive at the pool, train, then leave. Meals are not available for day pupils.
4. Accommodation within the boarding houses is offered only to the pupils of parents both of whom are clearly recognised as key workers, or to international pupils whose parents have been unable to alter their travel arrangements.
5. Accommodation within the boarding houses is not offered for boarders who choose to re-locate to Tavistock for this period in order to swim, nor should they attempt to secure accommodation with local families, as this would be a breach of government instructions.

- Pupils who wish to train must report directly to Big School between 16:00 and 20:00 on Tue 5 Jan.
- They are not to access any other areas of the school.
- Parents who bring their children to school by car may wait in their cars in the main car park, or may go into town, until the result of their child's test is known.
- All pupils must be off-site by the time the final pupil receives their test result – which is likely to be around 20:30.
- Pupils who receive a negative test result may train from Wednesday morning.
- Pupils who receive a positive test result may not train, and must self-isolate and book in for a PCR test.

1 Initial testing for pupils on the performance swim programme who wish to train during the second week of term, and did not attend the testing session on Tue 5 Jan

AND

2 Follow-on testing for pupils on the performance swim programme who did attend the testing session on Tue 5 Jan for their initial test

Saturday 9 January

9:00 – 13:00 in Big School

Pupils on the performance swim programme who wish to train during the second week of term, and who were not tested on Tue 5 Jan, have an opportunity to be tested on Sat 9 Jan.

Pupils on the performance swim programme who were tested on Sat 9 Jan are required to attend for follow-on testing on Sat 9 Jan.

1. They must return a negative test result prior to entering the pool building. Details of this are set out below.
2. The only test result which will be accepted is that generated by the school's own testing regime.
3. Pupils who wish to take advantage of this opportunity must adhere scrupulously to social distancing protocols, and must not move beyond the precinct of the pool building. They should arrive at the pool, train, then leave. Meals are not available.
4. Accommodation within the boarding houses is offered only to the pupils of parents both of whom are clearly recognised as key workers, or to international pupils whose parents have been unable to alter their travel arrangements.
5. Accommodation within the boarding houses is not offered for boarders who choose to re-locate to Tavistock for this period in order to swim, nor should they attempt to secure accommodation with local families, as this would be a breach of government instructions.

- Pupils who wish to train must report directly to Big School between 9:00 and 13:00 on Sat 9 Jan.
- They are not to access any other areas of the school.
- Parents who bring their children to school by car may wait in their cars in the main car park, or may go into town, until the result of their child's test is known.
- All pupils must be off-site by the time the final pupil receives their test result – which is likely to be around 13:30.
- Pupils who receives a negative test result may train from the morning of Mon 11 Jan.
- Pupils who receive a positive test result may not train, and must self-isolate and book in for a PCR test.

Initial testing for any pupil who will be attending live lessons in school from Mon 11 Jan

That is, pupils in the following categories:

- Boarding and day pupils in Year 11 & the Upper Sixth
- Key workers' children [KWC] and vulnerable children in other year groups who are not already in school

Pupils in these year groups who are on the performance swim programme and who have already been tested are not required to report for testing at this time.

Sunday 10 January

12:00 – 18:00 in Big School

DAY PUPILS

- Pupils in Year 11 and Upper Sixth, and day pupil KWC in other years, should report to Big School during this period in order to be tested, in advance of returning to the classroom the following day.
- Pupils who return a negative test result may attend lessons as normal from Mon 11 Jan.
- Pupils who return a positive test result must go home and follow the established protocols.

BOARDERS

- Boarders in Year 11 and Upper Sixth, and boarding KWC in other years, should report to Big School during this period in order to be tested, in advance of moving into their boarding accommodation.
- Boarders are **not** to report to their boarding houses until they have received the result of their test.
- Boarders returning by taxi, minibuss or coach may leave their bags in the main block classrooms.
- Parents who bring their children back to school by car must either wait in their cars in the main car park, or may go into town, until the result of their child's test is known.
- Any boarder who receives a negative test result may collect their belongings, and report to their boarding house.
- Any boarder who has been brought to school by their parents, and who receives a positive test result, must be taken home immediately.
- Any boarder who has returned to school by taxi, minibuss or coach, and who tests positive, will collect their belongings and then be moved immediately into the isolation accommodation.
- Regardless of how the pupil made his/her way to school, should they test positive on arrival at the Prep, their parents of UK boarders will be required to collect them as soon as possible.

Initial testing for any pupil who will be attending live lessons in school from Mon 18 Jan

That is, boarding and day pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & the Lower Sixth

Pupils in these year groups who are on the performance swim programme and who have already been tested are not required to report for testing at this time.

Sunday 17 January

12:00 – 18:00 in Big School

DAY PUPILS

- Day pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and Lower Sixth should report to Big School during this period in order to be tested, in advance of returning to the classroom the following day.
- Day pupils who return a negative test result should attend lessons as normal from Mon 18 Jan.
- Day pupils who return a positive test result must go straight home and follow the established protocols.

BOARDERS

- Boarders in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and Lower Sixth, and boarding KWC in other years, should report to Big School during this period in order to be tested, in advance of moving into their boarding accommodation.
- Boarders are **not** to report to their boarding houses until they have received the result of their test.
- Boarders returning by taxi, minibus or coach may leave their bags in the main block classrooms.
- Parents who bring their children back to school by car must either wait in their cars in the main car park, or may go into town, until the result of their child's test is known.
- Any boarder who receives a negative test result may collect their belongings and report to their boarding house.
- Any boarder who has been brought to school by their parents, and who receives a positive test result, must be taken home immediately.
- Any boarder who has returned to school by taxi, minibus or coach, and who tests positive, will collect their belongings and then be moved immediately into the isolation accommodation.
- Regardless of how the pupil made his/her way to school, should they test positive on arrival at the Prep, their parents of UK boarders will be required to collect them as soon as possible.