

ARE/JWA

4 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Following the recent letter circulated to parents, there have been a few queries that I would just like to clarify.

I appreciate the first letter was long due to the quoting of government guidance but I thought it was important to outline our decision making based on this information.

Please find below a summary of the key points you need to know regarding the return of students next week. Please refer back to the original letter for any further detail.

- The UTC cannot open a testing site on our premises because we do not have a space that meets the clinical standard operating procedure set out by the government. This is particularly due to a lack of ventilation and non-porous floors in appropriate spaces.
- Due to the above we cannot meet these requirements because we are not able to guarantee the safety of staff administering the tests or the students being tested.
- Although we cannot test on site, parents can still access home testing kits by ordering these from rapid flow testing sites. The links were shared in the previous letter. This will allow parents and students to test at home if they want to do so before returning to the UTC.
- The tests being used at home are called Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests and will give a result in 30 minutes.
- The government recommended doing three tests over the first two weeks, at least three to five days apart before home testing kits are delivered to the UTC.
- Home testing kits will be delivered w/c 8 March and will be distributed to students as soon as possible to allow for testing at home for the foreseeable future.
- **Students do not need to have a test before returning to school.** The whole process is voluntary but is highly recommended.
- If a student or family member takes an LFD test at home and the result is positive a full Covid-19 PCR test must be booked at a testing site and the family must self-isolate.
- There is no staggered start for students returning to UTC Sheffield City Centre. This was only suggested by the government to accommodate testing. **Therefore, all students can return to the UTC on Monday 8 March 2021 at normal time.**
- All Covid-19 safety precautions are still in place.
- Face coverings are mandatory in communal areas of the building. They are also strongly recommended in lessons but not mandatory.

I understand that this is a very challenging time for everyone and that there is a large amount of information to process. We are also processing huge amounts of government documentation that seems to change almost daily and I feel we can get lost in the jargon ourselves sometimes.

I want to thank you for your patience and understanding and would encourage you to please ask for clarification if you need it.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will provide support.

Yours faithfully



Alex Reynolds
Principal