



Ormiston  
**Meridian** Academy

**Re-opening from 8<sup>th</sup> March  
Information for Parents**

**Shaping Lives  
Building Ambition  
Igniting Futures**

## Phased return to face to face teaching and asymptomatic testing

When returning to school students will be offered three Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests spaced three to five working days apart (minimum three days and this does not include weekends). Students will return to face to face education following their first negative test result. Following the three initial tests, students will collect their 'test at home' kits and start testing at home on a regular basis.

The Government has given schools the flexibility to decide how best to deliver testing on a phased basis from 8th March depending on their circumstances. Therefore, our time frame for testing and a return to face to face teaching is as follows:

|                | Testing Round 1           | Return to school            | Testing Round 2 and 3                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Year 11</b> | Monday 8th March (am)     | Tuesday 9th March 8.40am    | The remaining tests will be conducted within the school day |
| <b>Year 10</b> | Monday 8th March (pm)     | Tuesday 9th March 8.40am    |   |
| <b>Year 9</b>  | Tuesday 9th March (am)    | Wednesday 10th March 8.40am |   |
| <b>Year 8</b>  | Tuesday 9th March (pm)    | Wednesday 10th March 8.40am |   |
| <b>Year 7</b>  | Wednesday 10th March (am) | Thursday 11th March 8.40am  |   |

In order to ensure that we can manage the flow of students through the testing centre, students must arrive on the correct date and within these time slots:

| Surname | Morning (am) slot | Afternoon (pm slot) |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|
| A-B     | 8:30-8:55         | 12:30-12:55         |
| C-F     | 9:00- 9:25        | 13:00-13:25         |
| G-I     | 9:30- 9:55        | 13:30-13:55         |
| J-L     | 10:00- 10:25      | 14:00-14:25         |
| M-P     | 10:30-10:55       | 14:30-14:55         |
| Q-T     | 11:00-11:25       | 15:00-15:25         |
| U-Z     | 11:25-12noon      | 15:30-16:00         |

Once home testing commences, parents and carers will be required to report results to schools to record. We will provide more information about how to do this soon.

Students not undergoing testing will attend school in line with the phased return arrangements identified above. Students who are currently in school will continue to attend school and then will be reintegrated back to face to face teaching when their year group returns.

## Attendance to school after 8<sup>th</sup> March

Whilst we understand this may cause some of you anxiety, the Government has made school attendance mandatory for all students from 8 March. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school
- the school's ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

If you have any concerns regarding your child's return to school please contact your child's Head of Year at the earliest possible opportunity and before your child's return date. We will endeavour to put bespoke arrangements into place to meet your family's needs and will work with you to find a positive solution.

If your child is SEND and you require support or would like to discuss this further, please contact Miss Amy Vigus (SENDCo) or Mrs Katherine Rostron (Assistant SENDCo)

Miss Vigus: SENDCo: [avigus@omera.co.uk](mailto:avigus@omera.co.uk)

Mrs Rostron: Assistant SENDCo: [krostron@omera.co.uk](mailto:krostron@omera.co.uk)

Mr Harrington Head of Year 7: [pharrington@omera.co.uk](mailto:pharrington@omera.co.uk)

Mr Watt Head of Year 8: [dwatt@omera.co.uk](mailto:dwatt@omera.co.uk)

Miss Hearson Head of Year 9: [khearsen@omera.co.uk](mailto:khearsen@omera.co.uk)

Mr Goodwin Head of Year 10: [mgoodwin@omera.co.uk](mailto:mgoodwin@omera.co.uk)

Mr Maxwell Head of Year 11: [jmaxwell@omera.co.uk](mailto:jmaxwell@omera.co.uk)

A small number of students will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

Where this is the case, please continue to follow the procedures established in September and inform the attendance office immediately.

## Protective Measures

All protective measures set out in September will continue to apply. In addition, the Government are now also recommending that face coverings should be worn in classrooms unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.

We understand that some students and also staff may find this difficult. Please be assured that we will support all of our students.

## Standards and expectations

Upon your child's return to school the usual standards and expectations will remain in place.

### Uniform

Students are expected to wear their full academy uniform. If your child has grown out of their blazer or require a new tie, you should order these items of uniform as soon as possible using this link:

<https://www.schoolsinuniform.co.uk/product-category/ormiston-meridian-academy-2/>

### Hairstyles

Hairstyles should be neat and tidy, of a nature that would be acceptable within a professional environment. Examples of hairstyles that are not acceptable include:

- Shaved or extremely short hair.
- Lines or patterns shaved into a student's hair.
- Unnatural colourings in a student's hair
- Dramatic 'steps' or changes in length.

NB-Where changes in length do occur, they should be graduated.

### Jewellery, make-up and nails

All make-up should be natural with no excessive colours, no false eyelashes, no strong eyeliner and no nail extensions. One small single stud earring in each earlobe is accepted. No other visible facial or body piercings e.g. nose, lip, eyebrow are permitted.

### Equipment

We expect all students to arrive to every lesson prepared. Your child should arrive at the academy each day with their 'Top Ten' items:

- Black pen
- Pencil sharpener
- Red pen
- Highlighter
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Dictionary
- Rubber
- Pencil case
- School bag

In line with Government guidance, the academy has amended the behaviour policy to reflect Covid-19 requirements. To maintain extremely high standards, the academy will adopt a strong stance if any student 'refuses' to follow social distancing, protective measures and/ or hygiene requirements. We are committed to ensuring the safety of all our students and staff.

## Support and wellbeing

We acknowledge this lockdown has been extremely difficult for many of our students and families and that some students may need additional support when they get back to school or prior to returning to school.

If your child has been previously supported by The Arch, Angus the therapy dog, the school councilor or the mental health team, our safeguarding team will contact you prior to your child's return. This will give you an opportunity to discuss any concerns or anxieties and arrange any bespoke support. In addition to this, if you would like to discuss any concerns about returning to school you can email [letstalk@omera.co.uk](mailto:letstalk@omera.co.uk)

## Laptop returns

If your child has loaned a laptop they will need to return it on either, the day of their test or the day they return to teaching. The laptop must be returned to Miss Clare McGlynn or Mr Jav Hussain. The laptop will be checked for any damage and then will be signed back into school.

## FAQs

### ***Do all students have to test?***

Testing is voluntary and individuals will be allowed to attend school even if they decide not to take part in testing. However, we would like to encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly. Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in this programme or not, should book a free NHS test and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known.

### ***Why can't students start testing at home immediately?***

It is important that initially students are supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on-site.

### ***Can students swab themselves?***

Yes, in an Asymptomatic Testing Site all students can swab themselves if they are able to. When testing at home, children should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary.

### ***What happens if a student struggles to perform the test?***

If a student administers the test and finds it difficult then there are Testing Assistants on hand to provide support. They are well-trained and will administer the test for the student if they request it. If a student feels as though they cannot complete the test after the support of a Testing Assistant, there will be no requirement for them to complete it and their parent/ carer will be contacted.

### ***What happens if a student test positive following the asymptomatic test?***

If a student tests positive for Covid-19, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the day after they tested positive and we must be informed immediately

### ***What happens if a student is unable to test themselves at home but have opted in for testing?***

We will retain a "small" testing site for those unable to test at home. Please inform the school if you are unable to administer the home test.

### ***What are the 'home testing kits' like?***

They are really easy to use. They come with a clear set of instructions about how to administer the tests correctly. However, the teachers will show you how to do this before you are expected to move to home testing.