



Returning from Leave-out

An overview

This communication details the outline plan for a staggered return to school after Leave-out. Over a six-day period, starting on Sunday 1 November, every boy in the school will be tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to their boarding house. The Winchester College Medical Centre (WCMC) will have an enhanced testing capacity and, using a pool-testing protocol, it will be possible to repopulate the boarding houses and the school over the six days. No boy will enter a boarding house until he has received confirmation of a negative test, thus ensuring that there is a greatly reduced chance of the virus spreading within the established school bubble. The testing process will be completed by year group, starting with VI Book 1 due to the Oxbridge admissions testing in the week following Leave-out. In addition, a number of VI Book 2 boys who are taking IGCSE resits will also need to return on the Sunday. VI Book 2 and Junior Part tests commence at the end of the week. Accordingly, the order of return will be:

- Sunday 1st Nov – VI Book 1 (Year 13)
- Monday 2nd Nov – VI Book 2 (Year 12)
- Tuesday 3rd Nov - V Book (Year 11)
- Wednesday 4th Nov - Junior Part (Year 9)*
- Thursday 5th Nov - Middle Part (Year 10)*
- Friday 6th Nov - Overspill

*These dates are different to those previously communicated in last week's Winchester Weekly.

At the time of writing, the intention is that those boys awaiting their return to school will be taught remotely. On each day of return, there will be testing throughout the day, so there will be no teaching for that year group.

We will provide a full extracurricular (EKKER) programme for the boys who have been admitted to the school following a negative test. The testing site will be located in the Kingsgate Park Temporary Sports Centre so the Sports Centre will not be available for the duration of the testing period.

How do I book a test?

An electronic booking system will be made available via *Winchester Weekly* on Tuesday 13th in order to allow parents to book tests on their son's designated day. There is some provision for siblings to be tested on the same day, but we would ask parents who can, to bring their boys back on the designated days for their year groups. The extra provision is limited and pastorally, especially for the younger boys, it might not be a good idea for an early arrival as it could be lonely in the boarding house without the rest of their peer group. We accept that there will be additional complications for some families. If this is the case, please email covidenquiries@wincoll.ac.uk for advice.



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What will happen on the day of testing?

The electronic booking system will allocate an arrival slot (e.g. 0915hrs – 0930hrs). As before, boys must not use public transport to travel to school and we would ask all parents/guardians to bring the boys by private transport and remain with them until the result of the test is known. Early arrivals will be filtered through to a holding area until their arrival slot comes up, and late arrivals will be allocated subsequent slots on a first-come-first-served basis.

In the appropriate arrival slot, parents' vehicles will be directed to an area where a swab will be taken by one of our trained nurses from the vehicle. The vehicle will then be directed to a waiting area to await the result of the test. The time from the swab to the result is up to two hours, so please do bring refreshments and something to read to bide the time. We will be providing hot drinks and bottled water from a refreshment station throughout the day, and there will be a circular walk mapped out around Kingsgate Park to stretch legs. Portaloo facilities will be available at both parking sites. We hope parents will understand that once the swab is taken, any close contact with others outside of their household would risk invalidating the test result.

When boys are cleared to join their boarding house, parents/guardians should drop their son off at the house immediately. However, there is a small chance that a second test may be required, in which case you will be given another test slot either immediately or for later in the day.

What happens if my son gets a positive result?

If your son tests positive, then he will need to return home to self-isolate for 14 days. For international pupils, where guardians are unable to assist, we will organise some accommodation for self-isolation. During this period, boys in this position will be able to access the remote learning provision.

A more detailed instruction for the testing process will be sent with the booking form next Tuesday 13th via *Winchester Weekly*.

Dr John Cullerne, Undermaster

6.10.2020