



22nd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Student

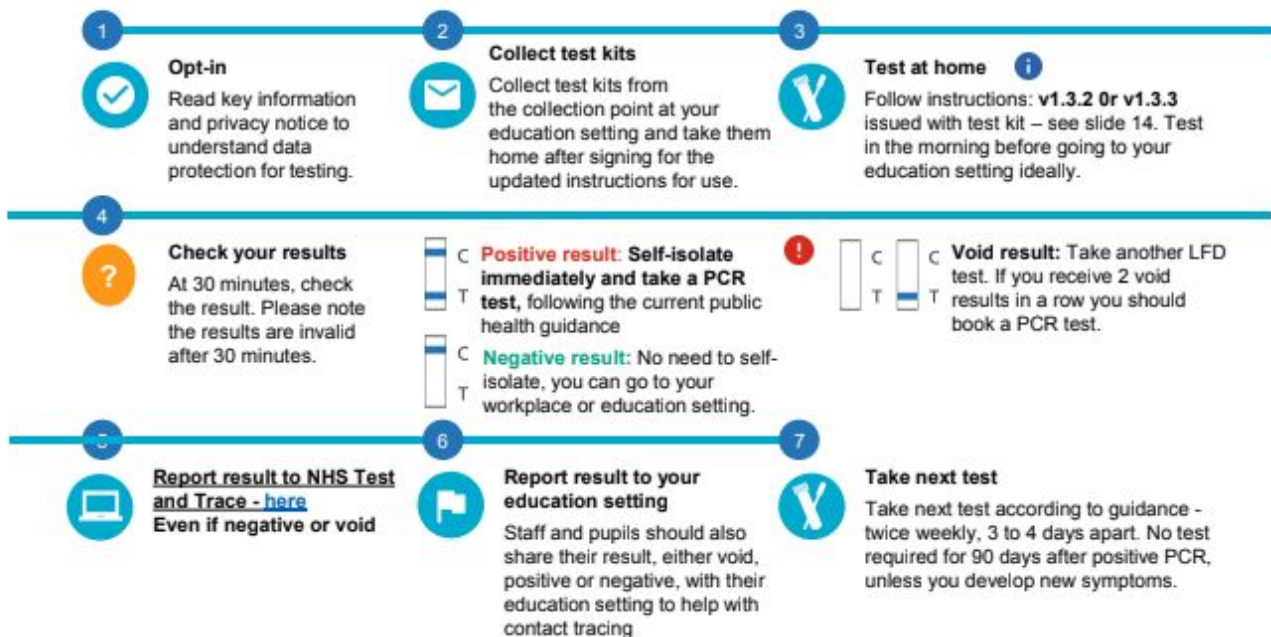
Thank you for all your support which has enabled us to come back into school. The atmosphere over the last few weeks in school has been excellent with students eager to return to their lessons, engage with their learning, find out what they know and reconnect with their friends.

Unfortunately, as you are aware, we did have to send some Year 9s home for self-isolation after a positive home test was reported last week. This has been a stark **reminder** to us that **the virus** is still **circulating** in **our community** and that we need to maintain our vigilance to prevent a surge in cases. It is important, therefore, that we all **test twice a week** even when we have **no symptoms**. We will only **defeat** this virus with a concerted **effort** from every single one of us.

Self-testing at home

The **success** of this public health measure depends on **as many people participating** as possible.

Testing at home – the process



Registering Home Tests

We have asked the students to carry out a home test every **Sunday** and **Wednesday** to support the school week.

It is really important that **results** of tests **are reported straight away**, even if your child's result is negative or void. Results must be reported to the [NHS Track and Trace](#) website. You will be sent a confirmation message to your mobile and email. Negative and void tests do not need to be reported to the **School but positives do**.



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal of Primary
Mrs Bishop - Principal of Secondary

Maritime House
Southwell Business Park
Portland, Dorset. DT5 2NA

Tel: 01305 820262
Email: Office@atlantic-aspirations.org

www.atlantic-aspirations.org

Reporting a Positive Covid Test Result [via our website](#)

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should: **tell the school** either by phone call **01305 820262 Ext 236 for Mrs Martin** or click [here](#) on our website if out of hours, **self-isolate** immediately and **get a PCR test** to confirm the result. In addition, they must self isolate and follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. If you have any symptoms of coronavirus, please book in for a test at a local testing centre. A test centre is available on Portland twice a week.

March: Women's History Month

As part of our PSHE curriculum during the Tutor time DMB, we have celebrated women's achievements throughout history right up to present day. As you know, March 8th was International Women's Day. This year the theme was **#ChooseToChallenge**. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions – all day, every day. We can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. We can all choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world. From **challenge comes change**. As women around the world battle the social, economic and political fallout from Covid-19, the need for this is greater than ever.

What can we do to help women feel safe?

The tragic abduction and murder of Sarah Everard sent shock waves through our society in a week when we celebrated both International Women's Day and Mother's Day. Violence against women remains devastatingly pervasive and starts alarmingly young. Across their lifetime, 1 in 3 women, around 736 million, are subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence from a non-partner – a number that has remained largely unchanged over the past decade.

Most women in the UK report having suffered harassment or abuse during their lifetime. This violence starts early: 1 in 4 young women (aged 15-24 years) who have been in a relationship will have already experienced violence by an intimate partner by the time they reach their mid-twenties.

What more can we do?

- We can talk together about (and keep on raising) the safety of women and girls and vulnerable people in their homes and on our streets.
- We can call out casual sexism and unwarranted attention or harassment.
- We can campaign for change in the ways in which sexual and violent crimes are treated and crucially how we support victims in our responses as a partnership.

If you are affected by these issues, please see these links: [Victim support](#) ; [Womens aid](#); [Domestic abuse helpline](#)

Information session about the Harbour Project – 24 March 6pm

You are invited to an information session about the innovative new Harbour Project which will bring together a team of professionals from different agencies. They will support our most vulnerable young people who are on the edge of care or need additional help to support placement stability. Dorset Council are now looking for specialist carers to join this exciting multi-agency team (annual salary nearly £40,000). If you are interested in finding out more about the Harbour or the roles available within it, you are very welcome to join their next virtual information session on Wednesday 24 March at 6pm. This will



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be a Microsoft Teams meeting and you can join on your computer or mobile app: [Click here to join the meeting](#). Or you can find out [more about the project and the roles online here](#).

Delivering free school meals to children over the Easter holidays

We have received Government funding to provide additional support this Easter to children who receive benefits-related free schools meals. Children that are currently in receipt of free school meals, and families experiencing financial hardship because of the COVID pandemic, will be eligible for supermarket vouchers to the value of £30 per child over the Easter school holiday period to help pay for groceries thanks to the COVID Winter Grant Scheme. [Find out more.](#)

Thank you Portland Town Council

The decision by Portland Town Council to provide a top up to the Easter vouchers is a fantastic example of community spirit and shows how kindness can go a long way during this very difficult time. We are very grateful to Portland Town Council for the generosity they have shown to our students. An additional £2 per week to our most vulnerable students to fund their meals during the Easter Holiday will make a significant and positive impact.

Virtual Parents' Evenings (Year 10 and 7)

- **Year 10 Virtual (Video Call) Parents' Evening: Thursday 22nd April**

The Virtual Booking system will **go live on Monday 22nd March**. Appointments can be made from **Monday 22nd March** and will close on **Wednesday 21st April at 12pm**. Letters with further information on how to book have been sent to all Year 10 parents and students. To ensure that you secure appointments with your child's teachers, please book early as the slots do get booked quickly. Should you wish to make any changes after this date, please contact Miss Fowler on zfowler@atlantic-aspirations.org.

- **Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening: Thursday 29th April**

The Virtual Booking system will **go live on Monday 19th April** with further details to follow.

Welcome

I would also like to welcome Mr Hazine and Miss Waterfall who are joining us this week from Exeter University for the summer term. Mr Hazine will be working with our MFL department whilst Miss Waterfall will be in our history department.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs L Bishop
Principal of Secondary