

From: DfE information <dfe.information@notifications.service.gov.uk>

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To: Janet Perry <janet.perry@tameside.gov.uk>

Subject: 25 February – Coronavirus – Daily update to all early years, children’s social care, schools and further education providers

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Tameside Council. This email claims to contain information about Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please inspect the email carefully to verify this is not a phishing email before clicking any links or opening attachments. Please exercise caution. Do you trust the person? Does the email look genuine? Were you expecting the attachment?

This message is just a reminder to remain vigilant. If in any doubt, please contact the IT Service Desk or Cyber Security Officer.



This is your daily email to keep you updated on the government’s response to coronavirus (COVID-19). If you have colleagues who would like to receive this email directly, please ask them to use this [subscription form](#).

Teacher assessed grades for students

Fairness and flexibility are at the heart of the government’s plans to ensure young people get to their next stage of education or training.

The [Education Secretary announced today](#) that students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with pupils only assessed on what they have been taught. No algorithms will be used.

Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by Friday 18 June. This allows as much teaching time as possible before teachers make their assessments.

Results days for GCSE, A level and some vocational qualifications will take place in the week beginning 9 August – moved forward from the week beginning 23 August. These earlier dates provide additional time for appeals to be completed, so students reliant on those outcomes to achieve their university offer have the best chance of accessing a place.

To support teachers in making their judgements, exam boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the spring term.

The Secretary of State for education has sent a [letter to Ofqual's Chief Regulator](#) about how GCSE, AS, A level and vocational and technical qualifications should be awarded in 2021.

In January, a two-week consultation took place to seek views on [how best to provide alternative arrangements to this year's exams](#). A joint consultation was held at the same time on how to award vocational, technical and other general qualifications.

The consultation outcomes have been published today. The publications outline the decisions taken to support students and teachers following the consultation:

- [awarding qualifications in summer 2021](#)
- [alternative arrangements for the award of VTQs and other general qualifications in 2021](#)

Flexibility permitting end point assessment for apprentices

We have updated the guidance on [providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#). From 25 February, eligible apprentices can start their end-point assessment before they achieve their functional skills qualifications if they have been waiting for the opportunity to access functional skills

assessments but have been prevented from doing so due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions.

School and college performance measures

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19), we have changed our approach to accountability data in 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021. We have published [guidance to explain how school and college accountability will operate in 2020 to 2021](#).

Mentally healthy schools

This March, Mentally Healthy Schools is building upon its current digital library of resources to add over 100 additional resources for secondary school pupils alongside their existing resources for primary school pupils.

These free resources will support teachers to help children, young people and their families get the support they need, when they need it.

To find out more about the free evidence-based mental health resources for students aged 11 to 19, [sign up to the mentally healthy schools newsletter](#).

Ofsted pause inspections of schools and colleges for the week beginning 8 March

[Remote monitoring inspections of schools](#) graded 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' and [further education providers](#) began on 25 January, with a particular focus on how well children and learners are being [educated remotely](#). These inspections are not graded.

Ofsted will pause their inspections of schools and colleges for the week beginning 8 March, while they are focused on reopening to all pupils and students.

For the rest of the term, Ofsted will continue to carry out monitoring inspections remotely by default. However, they will carry out on-site inspections if they have any immediate concerns – for example, about safeguarding or the leadership of a school or college.

National Tutoring Programme – subsidised tutoring available

All state-maintained schools can access tutoring subsidised by 75% through the National Tutoring Programme (NTP), to support pupils (aged 5 to 16) who need extra help. The NTP aims to ensure that high quality tutoring is available in all parts of the country to disadvantaged pupils who need the most support to catch up.

You can [search for approved NTP tuition partners](#) and enquire directly with providers. Online tutoring can be provided to pupils at home or in school [during lockdown](#), and can play a key part in re-engagement ahead of the return of classroom teaching. Tutoring can also be booked in for delivery when schools are fully reopened, including as a continuation of tutoring that was previously online.

This includes specialist provision for supporting students with SEND. 26 of our 33 providers are able to support students with SEND, including 17 providers who are able to support students in special school settings.

The NTP is running [information webinars](#) for all state-maintained schools, where you can hear directly from tuition partner organisations and learn about the subsidy. [Sign up](#) for the

national webinar on Tuesday 2 March at 4pm or see if one is running in your area.

Reminder: which school and college staff should be offered asymptomatic rapid testing

Schools and colleges should offer testing to all staff who are school and college based, including teaching and non-teaching staff members, such as support staff, clinical practitioners and therapists. Non-permanent members of staff should also be offered testing, such as trainee teachers on placement in school and supply workforce. Some staff, for example those employed through the NHS in specialist settings, may have separate arrangements for regular testing.

There are sufficient supplies to include these staff in the testing programme. [Guidance on how to reorder supplies](#) can be found on the document sharing platform.

Voluntary workforce support for rapid testing

We are working with the [Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership](#) (VCSEP) and the Department of Health and Social Care, to help schools and colleges access voluntary workforce support to deliver the rapid testing programme.

The Emergencies Partnership is a coalition of over 250 organisations across England, made up of local voluntary and community groups and larger regional and national charities. Its members include British Red Cross, St John Ambulance and Volunteering Matters.

If you wish to use volunteers to supplement your testing workforce you need to agree a deployment with your local voluntary provider.

You can request additional workforce support through this offer by Monday 1 March through the following routes:

1. Where you already hold local relationships, you can communicate with them directly to seek assistance
2. Where you do not have a prior relationship, you can use this link to access contact details to connect with your local partner [Find a member](#)
3. If you wish to be connected to your appointed local partner, you can email the central VCSEP Mailbox VCSEP@redcross.org.uk

Rapid testing webinar

Yesterday we held a webinar to provide secondary schools and colleges with an update on the rapid testing programme. If you were unable to join the webinar, you can [watch a recorded version](#) online.

A further webinar will be held in March which will focus on transitioning pupils and students from testing on-site to testing at home. Further information about this webinar will be provided closer to the time.

For full guidance about the new testing arrangements, including information on funding and delivery arrangements, please refer to the [rapid testing sharing platform](#). On this platform you will find three coloured handbooks:

- Orange – why and when you should do testing, as well as the funding available

- Green – how to set up testing on-site at your school or college
- Blue – how to transition your staff to testing at home

Updated guidance for keeping children safe online

We have updated our guidance for [parents and carers to keep children safe online](#). The measures announced over recent weeks to tackle coronavirus (COVID-19), although essential, have disrupted people's day-to-day lives.

As a result of these necessary measures, almost all of us are likely to be spending more time online, including children. This guidance contains resources for parents and carers to help keep their children safe online.

The information below has not changed since our last update

Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings and children's social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm

Please listen carefully to all of the available options before selecting the most appropriate option for your nursery, school, college or university.

Look up your unique organisation number (UON)

If you have not received your unique organisation number (UON) for ordering new coronavirus (COVID-19) test kits you can [look it up using your unique reference number \(URN\) or your UK provider reference number \(UKPRN\)](#) or by calling the Test and Trace helpdesk on 119.

Department for Education guidance

Our guidance to support education providers, local authorities and parents during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak can be accessed using the links below:

- [guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [guidance for schools](#)
- [guidance for further and higher education providers](#)
- [guidance for local authority children's services](#)