



5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Return to school

Thank you for the fantastic support for our Coronavirus testing taking place next Monday and Tuesday. Adapting the parents evening booking system for this purpose did prove more complicated than we expected so thank you for your perseverance. Students do not need to wear school uniform for the testing as they will only be in school briefly, on arrival students must report to the rear door of the sports hall. Parents and Carers attending are asked to wait in their cars. Please remember you will only be informed if your child's test result is positive. Students must wear masks for these appointments.

Below is a reminder of the schedule for next week.

Monday 8 th and Tuesday 9 th March	All students visit the school briefly at a predetermined time to undertake a lateral flow Coronavirus test. The keyworker and vulnerable groups continue in school.
Wednesday 10 th March	Year 11 and 7 students return to school
Thursday 11 th March	Year 8, 9 and 10 return so all students are in school
Friday 12 th March	All students are in school The second lateral flow test is conducted

In order to facilitate students coming into school for their tests, live lessons will not take place after Friday 5th March. Independent tasks will be set for those students studying at home between Monday 8th and Wednesday 10th March.

On returning to school students will find the arrangements for Coronavirus safety very similar to those in operation before Christmas. Staggered breaks and lunches will keep students in their year group bubbles, we will expect all students to help with the cleaning of the desks they have used and good hand hygiene will be vital.

From Wednesday students will once again need to enter the school via the designated entrance for their year group. Year 11 will enter by the back gate, Years 10, 9 and 8 by the main gate and Year 7 by the side gate. Each morning students will assemble in their designated areas as they did in the autumn term. They will then be met by their tutors.

Please remember that students must not attend school if they display any of the symptoms of Coronavirus and should seek a test at an NHS testing site as soon as possible. In the event of a positive test result households are again required to isolate. In the event that a child is found to have attended school in the two days prior to a positive test result, all students

considered to have been in close contact with that child will be required to go into isolation for ten days. Towards the end of the autumn term the Government did trial a series testing programme, during which close contacts of a positive case could continue to attend school if they undertook a daily Coronavirus test. This programme was subsequently cancelled.

In line with all public buildings face coverings are again required. The students managed this situation very well in the autumn term. As you are aware the Government guidance now asks for face coverings in classrooms. This is a temporary measure and along with the testing programme is a key part of the Government's strategy for ensuring schools can reopen safely. We therefore ask for your full support, should your child suffer from one of the medical conditions which means they cannot wear a mask, please let us know if you have not already done so. We appreciate wearing a mask for long periods can be a challenge and we will explain to students when masks will not be necessary. Teachers will once again endeavour to maintain a 2m distance from students in the classrooms and will wear masks when this is not possible.

On days when students have PE lessons they again need to wear their PE kit all day, they must ensure they have their blazers on these days. We are delighted that after school sports clubs are now permitted. If a student is attending a sports club after school on a day when they do not have PE, they are permitted to wear their kit for that day.

During the lockdown period we were fortunate to be able to lend laptops to many students. These will need to be collected in an organised way so each can be correctly logged and cleaned. We therefore ask that initially students keep these laptops at home. We will inform students when they should bring them back to school.

In the week beginning 15th March testing moves to a home testing model. Further information about home testing is expected shortly.

Sadly many of the families in our community have been affected by the virus in some way, we expect all students to show an understanding of these issues. We also appreciate many students are feeling nervous about the return to school, please encourage your child to speak to their tutor if they would benefit from additional support.

Many students have expressed excitement about coming back to school; we look forward to having everyone back and teaching face to face once again.

Thank you again for all your support and the many kind comments we have received during this period.

Yours sincerely,



Mr N. K. Willingham
Headteacher