

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

## **RETURNING TO SCHOOL**

As you are aware, the government has confirmed its school reopening plans, with all settings expected to reopen on March 8. We welcome this news and look forward to all students returning but we need to implement a range of measures to ensure our school, and its community, are as safe as possible. All student timetables will return to the **normal timings of 08.45 - 3pm from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**. Those students that have a loaned a device from school will need to return to their form tutor on their first FULL day in school.

Students are familiar with the measures in place from September, including social distancing when not in lessons, seating plans for all classes, hand washing or using hand sanitizer and wearing of face masks. It is important that we all fully adhere to these measures to keep each other and our families safe. We ask for your continued support and remind your child about their responsibilities, especially regarding wearing face coverings. All students, without medical exemption, are asked to wear face coverings in all social areas, at all times, to support our school community. Please contact your child's Year Lead if they have a medical exemption.

### **Asymptomatic Testing**

Since January, we have made available, rapid asymptomatic testing (lateral flow tests), to all staff and students in school. This sort of testing means that people who have COVID19 but do not have any symptoms, can be identified and self-isolate. As an additional safety measure, returning students will be tested, with your consent, three times at school in the first two weeks of returning. Students will self swab under the supervision of trained staff. Any student who needs assistance will be supported. This will help to get used to swabbing themselves for the tests before moving to home testing. Students will then be provided with home kits for twice weekly testing.

Testing is voluntary but we would encourage as many parents as possible to give your consent to help reduce the prevalence of the virus. Many thanks to the majority of parents who have already returned your consent to school. If you have not had the opportunity to complete the online request, could you please do so at your earliest convenience so we can ensure appropriate arrangements are in place. Here is the link to the online form:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FwVTBeOaSkqP38G2JtFt\\_AQvYT8AvlICsE6mFus-d3hUMjIUUowMUQ3NV01TFJOV1IxNDFEUDVDRC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FwVTBeOaSkqP38G2JtFt_AQvYT8AvlICsE6mFus-d3hUMjIUUowMUQ3NV01TFJOV1IxNDFEUDVDRC4u)

### **Testing Arrangements**

To allow us to return all students to school safely, we need to give additional time to the first test that will be taken in school. We will therefore conduct the first test and then ask students to return home, immediately after their test. Once we have the negative results, students will be invited back to lessons, in school, the following day. Please note, all remote lessons will continue as normal whilst students are waiting for their testing day. **The tests will be accessed through the green side gate to the sports hall.**

Provision for key worker and vulnerable students remains in place as normal, throughout this transition period. If you have not given consent for your child to be tested, or have made alternative arrangements at a local testing centre, they should not attend on that initial testing day and should return with their year group when they begin normal lessons in school the following day.

### **Central Sixth**

For Post 16 students, there will be no movement between schools at this stage. If a student has a lesson in an away school, this will be delivered online and the student can do this from home. However, there

will be facilities in the home school to access the lesson if preferred and any lack of engagement will lead to an insistence on this.

**Testing Schedule: Friday 5 March – Wednesday 10 March**

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Friday 5 March	Continue with online learning					In school from 09.30am for testing and then returning home (text will be sent to confirm time)	In school from 08:30am for testing and then returning home (text will be sent to confirm time)
Monday 8 March	Continue with online learning The timetable will return to the normal timetable from 8:45am – 3pm				Year 11 in school for testing and then returning home (texts will be sent to confirm time)	Post 16 return to school (return any devices)	
Tuesday 9 March	Year 7 &8 continue with online learning. The timetable will run as normal timetable from 8:45am – 3pm.		Year 9 in school for testing and then returning home: Slot A (08.30) Slot B (09.00) Slot C (09.30) Slot D (10.00) Texts will be send to confirm time	Year 10 in school for testing and then returning home: Slot A (10.30) Slot B (11.00) Slot C (11.30) Slot D (12.00) Texts will be send to confirm time	Year 11 return to school at 8.45am starting with tutor session. Lessons return to normal timetable. (return any devices)		
Wednesday 10 March	Year 7 in school for testing and then returning home: Slot A (10.30) Slot B (11.00) Slot C (11.30) Slot D (12.00) Texts will be send to confirm time	Year 8 in school for testing and then returning home: Slot A (08.30) Slot B (09.00) Slot C (09.30) Slot D (10.00) Texts will be send to confirm time	Year 9 & 10 return to school at 8.45am starting with tutor session. Lessons return to normal timetable. (return any devices)				
Thursday 11 March	In school for lessons in the normal timetable. Year 7&8 return any devices.						

## FURTHER TESTING

All students will be in school by Thursday 11 March, and additional testing will take place for those with consent within the school day.

	Session 1 (from 08.30)	Session 2 (from 10.30)
Monday 8 March	Year 11 first test	Year 12 & 13 second test
Thursday 11 March	Year 11 second test	Year 12 & 13 third test
Friday 12 March	Year 9 second test	Year 10 second test
Monday 15 March	Year 11 third test	Year 7&8 second test
Tuesday 16 March	Year 10 third test	Year 9 third test
Thursday 18 March	Year 8 third test	Year 7 third test

## Testing at Home

Going forward, students (and staff) will be given testing kits to be completed at home. It is important that all involved manage the results of this correctly:

- Students should report all positive results of the test to NHS Test and Trace AND to school
- If there is a positive test in an onsite test, there is no need for a follow up PCR test and isolation will start from the point of the positive test for ten days
- If there is a positive test at home, your child will need to take a follow up PCR test and isolate until the results of this are received. The details of these sites can be found on the NHS website or through 119
- If a child has previously had a positive case, they are encouraged to continue to be tested twice weekly

## COVID 19 Symptoms

The onsite testing in school is for asymptomatic students and staff. If your child, or anyone in your household, develop any of the three symptoms: a new continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss of or change in your normal sense of taste or smell, then please do not send them into school. Your child must obtain a test and remain at home, or remain at home until the result of the household member is obtained. If negative they can return to school. If positive, they must isolate for the stated period of time.

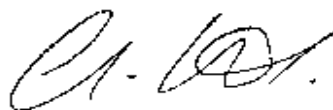
We believe that the measures we have in place will allow the school community to come together again safely and welcome your support beyond the school gate to help your children make positive decisions of the health of themselves, their families and the communities they are part of.

If you have any questions about the return to school, please contact your child's Year Lead.

Yours faithfully



Mr Morgan  
Head of School



Mrs Holloway  
Executive Headteacher