

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021



## Re: Returning to School Plan - March 2021

Dear Parent and Carers,

I am now able to share our detailed plans for the safe return of all students to school following the further guidance that has been released by the Department for Education

Our logistical challenge has been planning how to safely test 1669 students, whilst keeping them apart so that students can return to school following their first negative test. This planned approach will prevent those unknowingly carrying COVID 19 from transmitting it to other students, staff or spreading it to the wider community. Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing is an additional risk mitigation step to ensure asymptomatic cases are identified before they start attending face to face lessons so that we reduce the number of students and staff contacts who need to isolate. **Therefore it is critical that we all support one another by consenting to students being tested to keep our community safe.**

As I stated earlier this week, the government has given schools the discretion on how to stagger the return of their students over the week beginning 8th March and has now agreed some testing can occur before this date. A staggered start allows testing to take place in a safe and orderly manner with government guidance asking schools to prioritise year groups 10 to 13.

Initially, students will only come into school on their designated testing day at an appointed time to undertake a test. Once tested they will then immediately return home. **To do this we will be relying on parents/carers transporting students into school for the test to avoid any mingling with others.** Once the first test has been completed, students will return home. If the test result is positive or void then you will be contacted by the testing team otherwise please presume it is negative. If you do not receive a phone call your child will be able to return to school the following day. The testing and return to lessons dates can be found in the summary timetable below.

Year Group	First Test - come into school to be tested then return home immediately via OWN transport	First day back in school following a negative test for lessons
Year 7	Tuesday 9th March	Wednesday 10th March
Year 8	Wednesday 10th March	Thursday 11th March
Year 9	Thursday 11th March	Friday 12th March
Year 10	Monday 8th March	Tuesday 9th March
Year 11	Thursday 4th March	Monday 8th March
Year 12	Friday 5th March	Monday 8th March
Year 13	Wednesday 3rd March	Monday 8th March

### Key Points - First Test

- Testing will be self-administered by students supported carefully by our trained and experienced staff. This will familiarise students with how to self-swab properly in a supervised safe setting in school.
- Once students have completed three LFD tests, 3-5 days apart they will transition to home testing.



- More details on home testing and home test kits will follow once students are back in school.
- If you have **not yet provided consent then please register via [this link](#) to the letter on our website.**
- Students **MUST** wear a face mask when they arrive at school for their first test (unless exempt on medical grounds). For the first test school uniform is not required as students will be returning home immediately after their test.

### Key Points - Lessons

- On the day a year group is having their first test there will be no 'live lessons', teachers will set work for students usually on the google classroom or Satchel One. This will reduce disruption to the school day inevitably caused by students coming into school for their tests and the support being provided to enable this by our staff.
- Vulnerable and the children of critical workers, already attending school during the closure period, will follow their normal timetable from the 8th March in school. They have been regularly participating in testing in school.
- From **Monday 8th March, we will be following the Autumn 2020 timetable for BOTH Remote Learning and face to face lessons.** Year 8 and 9 will revert back to split lessons. This is because from this date teachers will be in school delivering a blend of face to face and remote lessons.

Year	08:25	08:45	09:00	09:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	13:00	13:30	14:00	14:30	15:00
7	Teachers to go Tutor Rooms	TT	P1	P2		P3				P4	P5				Students leave site
10		TT	P1	P2		P3			P4	P5					
8		TT	P1	P2	P3		P3	P4		P4	P5				
9		TT	P1	P2	P3		P3	P4		P4	P5				
11		TT	P1	P2	P3				P4		P5				
12		TT	P1	P2	P3				P4		P5				
13		TT	P1	P2	P3				P4		P5				

P Lesson  
 Break  
 Canteen Lunch

Next week you will receive a letter with all of the details of the testing for your child, and your designated test time. With the volume of tests we are conducting it is critical you arrive as close to the time given as possible. If transport or timings are an issue then we will provide contact details in that letter so we can look to provide support.

We appreciate the challenges this testing may bring parents and carers and that students may be anxious about returning to school. Please be assured that our staff are here to support you and your child and we are really looking forward to welcoming them back to school. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr S Brown  
Headteacher

