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Dear Parents

Further details on the wider school reopening from Monday 8th March

I write following my message last week to give you further details about the full re-opening of the school next week.

As mentioned before, in order to meet the government's instruction to offer all students an on-site lateral flow Covid-19 test, we will need to phase our return over the course of the week. In order to manage the testing, students in each year group will need to have a staggered start on the day of their return to school.

It is important to note that these voluntary tests are meant for asymptomatic individuals only. Please do not send your child to school if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID and instead follow the NHS advice given [here](#).

On arrival, at their designated times, students are asked to go directly to the small tennis court (in front of the Science and Maths block) where they will be met by college staff. If it is wet, they will be directed to the Sports Hall. Students will need to bring their face coverings as before and they will be reminded to wear these when social distancing rules cannot be maintained. Students not undertaking a lateral flow test should still arrive at the times shown below and will be directed to their timetabled lessons accordingly.

Year 11 (Monday) and **Year 10 (Tuesday)** are asked to attend in their **tutor** groups as follows:

Monday 8th March		Tuesday 9th March	
8.45	11DSA	8.45	10ETS
9.10	11PHB	9.05	10DSKG
9.35	11ESML	9.25	10DSHR
10.00	11DACN	9.45	10VMT
10.25	11EKP	10.05	10EEC
10.50	11PLGS	10.25	10ARK
11.15	11VPS	10.45	10VDI
11.40	11VRB	11.05	10PJSH
		11.25	10PDWG

Years **7, 8** and **9** are asked to attend in their **teaching** groups as follows:

Wednesday 10th		Thursday 11th		Friday 12th	
8.45	7a1	8.45	8d2	8.45	9a2
9.10	7a2	9.10	8c1	9.10	9a1
9.35	7a3	9.35	8a1	9.35	9b2
10.00	7b1	10.00	8a2	10.00	9c2
10.25	7b2	10.25	8b1	10.25	9c1
10.50	7b3	10.50	8b2	10.50	9d2
11.15	7c1	11.15	8c2	11.15	9b1
11.40	7c2	11.40	8d1	11.40	9d1
12.05	7c3				

It is clear that disruptions to our normal routines for the next couple of weeks will be significant. We are planning to minimise this of course and staff will be planning their learning activities accordingly. The first few lessons will focus on reacquainting students with their peers and teachers and reassuring them of plans to help support any gaps in learning. We have also designed sessions for tutor times to help settle children back into school and are very much focused on their [well-being](#) during this time.

Where possible, routines that were familiar to the students prior to this period of closure will be maintained; timetables, rooms, breaktimes and lunchtimes, one-way systems, etc. will continue as normal. Please reinforce the importance of good hygiene measures such as regular hand washing, taking extra care when coughing and sneezing and maintaining social distancing when possible. Tony Hill, Interim Director of West Sussex Public Health gives further guidance [here](#).

However, for the week commencing 8th March, I am afraid that it will not be possible to open our catering facilities. As a result students will need to bring packed lunches. Those entitled to free school meals will be issued supermarket vouchers as currently.

Google Classrooms will be maintained and this will be particularly important for those students who are awaiting their particular slot to return. You will understand, I am sure, that the logistics of next week means that it will not be possible for staff to undertake live-streamed lessons in the normal way.

Face Coverings

As you know, the government has updated its [guidance](#) on face-coverings in schools. Specifically, the guidance now states that they recommend that:

In settings where pupils and students in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms and during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.

Whilst we will be following the government's guidance at Oathall, it is understood that wearing face coverings in classroom settings is far from ideal. Staff are very aware of the potential implications of this policy and understand the sensitivity needed in its application. Thank you for your support in this matter.

The staff at the college are very much looking forward to welcoming your children back to school next week. In the meantime, if you have any queries please contact your child's Head of House in the first instance.

Kind regards

Edward Rodriguez
Headteacher