



February 2021

Dear Parent/carers,

I hope that you and your family are safe and well and that you have had a restful half-term. I apologise, in advance, for a somewhat lengthy email reflecting the government announcements on Monday.

We look forward to welcoming all the pupils back into school from the week commencing 8th March. The extensive guidance to support school re-opening may be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Much of the guidance is identical to the framework in operation last term but there are two significant differences.

Firstly, the government guidance requires us to offer pupils lateral-flow Coronavirus tests before they can return to school. We are able to offer the pupils their first test the day before their year group returns on a staggered rotation over the week so that we can welcome all the pupils back into a normal school routine by Monday 15th March. Please note that the testing programme is entirely voluntary and pupils will still be welcomed back into school on their specified year groups date if they have declined the offer of a test. Parental consent must be given in order for a test to be administered. If you have not already completed the consent form and wish for your child to be tested please can you complete the consent form following the attached link before Wednesday 3rd March.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Covidtestconsent>

Allocated testing time slots will be sent out to individuals on receipt of completed consent forms. Year 11 testing will be scheduled for Monday 8th, Year 10 Tuesday 9th, Year 7 Wednesday 10th, Year 8 Thursday 11th and Year 9 Friday 12th. It is important that your child arrives to school promptly for their test appointment time at the main reception entrance, and then returns directly home once their test has been completed. Pupils will start school alongside their year group the following day after testing unless they have a positive test result. Further guidance will be given to anyone with a Positive test result.

Critical worker and vulnerable pupils currently attending school will be offered testing the week of 1st to 5th March and their provision will continue as normal until they join their year group in class.

Pupils will return as follows Year 11 on Tue 9th, Year 10 on Wed 10th, Year 7 on Thurs 11th, Year 8 on Friday 12th and Year 9 on Monday 15th, therefore all pupils will be fully returned to face to face lessons in school by Monday 15th March. Remote learning lessons will continue to be provided for all year groups in line with timetabled lessons for pupils not in school until 15th March.

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A second and third test will be given to consenting pupils during school time 3-5 days apart, following this, pupils will be issued with self-test kits alongside training to complete at home moving forwards.

On return to school, pupils will resume the same model as last term. This means pupils will be based in hubs, have staggered starts, entries, exits, break, lunches and have designated zones and gates. A reminder of the daily plan will be on the website should you need this. It is important that pupils arrive promptly at their designated entrance points to avoid crossing of bubbles. Please discourage your child from arriving too early and to congregate at the gates or arrive once the gates have been closed to the year group bubble. Standards and expectations regarding behaviour will be upheld and pupils should return to school wearing full school uniform and fully equipped. Attendance at school is mandatory. There is a direct link between attendance and academic success so it is important we all work together to ensure your child is in school every day. Pupils who were issued with a laptop should return these to year teams once back in school.

Secondly, the guidance requires pupils to wear masks in lessons where social distancing cannot be maintained. Pupils will need to wear a mask in lessons as well as in corridors and communal areas. Clearly this change will not apply to those who are exempt for a clinical reason. May I thank you in advance for ensuring that the pupils have a suitable mask to wear each day. We would recommend the reusable, multi-layered fabric masks suggested by the [UK government](#) and by the [World Health Organisation](#) rather than the disposable masks which have a much greater environmental impact. The teachers will advise specifically on occasions where masks are not to be worn in lessons e.g. for safety reasons during science experiments or during exercise.

In school, we will continue to emphasise to the pupils the importance of hand washing, social distancing and the use of sanitiser, as well as mask wearing and we will expect the pupils to comply fully with these public health guidelines. We will strike a pragmatic balance between opening windows to ventilate classrooms and maintaining temperatures. The cleaning team will sanitise high risk areas such as toilets or door-plates regularly during the day and we will 'fog' rooms after school to further reduce the chances of Coronavirus being transmitted within the school site.

When the pupils return to school, the teachers will take time to check that the material taught remotely this term has been properly learned and address any gaps in knowledge or understanding as well as moving on with the teaching of new material. We will return to the normal homework arrangements for all pupils by 15th March. The guidance allows us to offer most of the co-curricular activities at lunchtimes and after-school, in exactly the same way as last term. The school bus services will operate as normal at the start and the end of the school day from 9th March.

Please do not send your child to school if they have possible symptoms of Coronavirus: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to the sense of smell or taste. If your child does show these symptoms then please keep them at home, arrange for them to be tested for Coronavirus and let us know of any positive results. If a pupil tests positive, they may not have been in school when they were contagious therefore other pupils would not necessarily need to self-isolate. Equally, we would decide, in cooperation with the local public health authorities, whether there is any risk of other pupils being exposed to Coronavirus as direct contacts of the pupil who has tested positive. Direct contact is defined as;

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- face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
- being within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- being within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
- travelled in the same vehicle or a plane

We will notify all parents if a group of pupils does need to self-isolate for a period of 10 days. Pupils may also be self-isolating because they are waiting for a test result or because a family member has tested positive; whatever the reason for the self-isolation we will support the pupils remotely with their learning, from the day after we are notified or sooner, assuming that they feel well.

If a pupil develops symptoms of possible Coronavirus at school then we will isolate them in a designated space and ask you to collect them from school.

We await the full outcome of the consultation on the awarding of GCSE grades and I will write separately to Year 11 pupils and their parents setting out our plans for the remainder of the academic year as soon as this is available. Our advice to Year 11 pupils remains that they should continue to engage with lessons and homework to complete the syllabuses and any future assessment or examinations as grades will be based on teacher assessments. The final submission date for grades is June 18th therefore judgements will be made on pupils historic work alongside work completed up to that point. GCSE Results day is scheduled for 12th August 2021, further details regarding this will be shared at a later date.

Thank you, once again, for your cooperation and support of the school in these difficult times.

Yours faithfully,



Linda Hanson
Headteacher

	Mon 8	Tue 9	Wed 10	Thurs 11	Fri 12		Mon 15	Tue 16	Wed 17	Thurs 18	Fri 19
Y7			Test 1	Return			Test 2			Test 3	
Y8				Test 1	Return		Test 2			Test 3	
Y9					Test1		Return	Test 2			Test 3



PERSONAL GROWTH

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

ASPIRATION

DETERMINATION

INDEPENDENCE

Y10		Test 1	Return		Test 2			Test 3		
Y11	Test 1	Return		Test 2			Test 3			

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