

25 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to begin this by thanking you for all your hard work in supporting your child(ren) with their learning and personal development during this current period of national lockdown. We all have lots about which we can feel a sense of pride; our collective efforts as a community mean that we are giving our young people the best possible chances in life.

You will be aware that as the national picture improves, so returning to school is really important. From 8 March all children and students must return to school and attendance will be mandatory once again from this date.

Secondary aged pupils (Year 7 and above) should take part in asymptomatic testing upon their return in the week of 8 March. We will be sending out a consent form for you to complete if you wish for your child to be part of this optional testing process.

Pupils not undergoing testing **must** attend school in line with our phased return arrangements as detailed below.

Monday 8 March 2021 – Years 10 and 11 return to school

Tuesday 9 March 2021 – Years 7 and 8 return to school

Wednesday 10 March 2021 – Year 9 return to school

If you are a parent of a child that is vulnerable or if you are a critical worker, your child should continue to attend school throughout, unless they receive a positive test result.

Our safe working practices in place since the beginning of the academic year mean that we do not need to make many changes. We will still be working in year group bubbles; we will continue with the same staggered start and finish times to the school day and the same rules apply to regarding wearing full school uniform, except on days when they have PE when they should wear their school PE kit. One important change concerns face coverings.

In line with government guidance, face coverings should be worn in classrooms and during activities, unless social distancing can be maintained. This won't apply in situations where a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example PE lessons. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils or students when outdoors on the school site. The wearing of face coverings in classrooms is being introduced for a limited time until Easter. Please make sure your child has a suitable face covering to wear at school.

Please support us by reminding your child of some the very simple things that we can all do to keep ourselves and each other safe. These include: frequent and thorough handwashing / sanitizing; maintaining at least 2m social distance from others wherever possible and wearing a face covering as mentioned above.

Your child must not attend school if they or anyone in your household have any of the following symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If symptoms are present then you must arrange to have a test and inform school of the outcome.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our whole school community back on site. Please check our website for further information.

With best wishes



Miss D Johnson and Mr N A Johnson



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