

5th March 2021

Dear Parent

I hope that you and your families are well and safe.

We have now completed our first week of testing and I would like to thank all students, parents, volunteers and staff members who have made this week run so smoothly. Without the support and focus this would have been a much more demanding operation.

My reason for writing to you is to go through how our phased return to school will operate from Monday 8th March, detailing the plans we have put into place to support a safe return for everyone. The updated Risk Assessment can be found by clicking [here](#) and on our school website. Within this letter, I will provide an outline of processes and behaviour expectations for our return.

Firstly, as a staff we are all very much looking forward to welcoming our students back to school. A reminder of our phased return to school dates are below:

Year Group	Date
Year 11	Tuesday 9 th March (8:40am start)
Year 10	Wednesday 10 th March (8:40am start)
Year 9	Thursday 11 th March (9:00am start)
Year 8	Friday 12 th March (9:00am start)
Year 7	Friday 12 th March (8:40am start)

School Operation document:

To support the phased return, I would ask you now to refer to the School Operation document by clicking [here](#). This will remind you and your child of specific details about how school will look and operate for your child. I would request that you take the time to discuss its contents with your child so as a family you feel confident about the expectations.

Student expectations document:

School staff have worked tirelessly in preparing for a full return to school and I am keen that we maintain our harmonious and conducive learning atmosphere. Staff will continue to plan engaging lessons and acknowledge student achievement, but it is important that everyone is made aware of the Covid-19 behaviour expectations to maintain a safe learning environment. I would therefore ask you now to refer to the student letter by clicking [here](#) and to discuss its contents with your child. Again, I thank you for your support in this matter.

Attendance:

The Government guidance has stated that schooling will return to compulsory attendance. You will have also read from the guidance that if families 'choose' to not send their child(ren) back to school then this has to be followed up and parents may receive fines. This is obviously a contentious point but I write to tell you that rather than putting me into this situation I ask that you support and trust what the school has put in place by ensuring your child(ren) attends school daily. There will be a fair approach to this and we will work together to support our students return to school.

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Uniform:

We would like to remind students of our expectations in uniform. Hoodies and non-school jumpers are not part of the uniform and we also ask that particular consideration is given to the length of the school skirts being worn into and around the school. These need to be of a suitable and appropriate length; students will be challenged if an unacceptable length. A polite reminder that a school bag for their books and equipment also forms part of our uniform expectations.

Face coverings:

As the government guidance states, we will be expecting all students, unless exempt, to be wearing face coverings in communal areas of the school, mainly corridors and indoor eating areas. The guidance also states that in the classroom they 'strongly recommend' wearing face coverings where social distancing cannot take place. This is the approach we will be supporting and we would hope that you ask your child to support this guidance as well. Please note that this will be reviewed by the government at Easter.

Testing:

I will be sending a separate letter regarding how your child will receive their home test kits from the school and how you will need upload results to both the NHS and school tracking registers.

Practical subject days:

As we did before the Christmas break, we would ask that students arrive to school in the expected kit when they have a practical lesson.

Blended learning:

I wish to make you aware that I still have a number of staff members who are under the guidance of shielding until the next government review on March 31st. Therefore, some students will still have 'blended learning' lessons where their teacher will be teaching from home and the lesson will be supervised by another member of staff.

Parental responsibility:

For all that we have put into place to make the school a safe environment, I have to trust that **EVERY** parent and student plays their part in maintaining this on a daily basis. This starts with ensuring that your child(ren) is/are COVID free. If your child shows symptoms then it is your responsibility to follow the correct government guidance. If you do keep your child off due to suspicions of COVID, we expect that:

- You **MUST** inform the school of your concerns on the day of absence
- You **MUST** get your child tested that day
- You **MUST** inform the school of the result with a copy of the results within 24 hours

Your responsibility and communication are **VITAL** with this scenario. I thank you in advance for your acceptance of these expectations.

It is with hope that we can now see the end of these difficult times and I remind us all that we have come through many difficult times together as a community, to which I believe this has brought us closer and strengthened our working relationships. As always, I thank and appreciate your continual support, positive feedback and, most importantly, your trust in the school. I hope we can take this next positive step together to support a full return for everyone.

Stay safe.



Mr Conroy
Headteacher