



3 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, on the 22 February, the Prime Minister announced that all schools would be reopening on 8 March in England, with secondary schools being permitted to instigate a phased return during the first week to allow for students to be tested for COVID-19 before returning to lessons.

A comprehensive 'March reopening information' document, details all the necessary information you will need to enable your child to return to school safely next week. I would politely ask that you review, and read carefully, that document before asking any further questions of school, or contacting us for further clarification. I am confident the document covers all aspects of school that need consideration at this point. The document can be accessed on the school website and a link will be sent to you via the MyEd app.

This letter summaries the main points from that document, with the essential information you will need in the first instance. Please be minded, as with our previous 'reopening', the situation we all inhabit currently is 'fluid' and may change at the last minute. Having said that, as matters stand now, I will share our intentions for opening below:

Testing for students

Students who are coming into school for their first test will enter and exit through main reception. Students do not need to wear school uniform when they come for their first test.

Monday, 8 March – Y11, 12 and 13 students, for whom consent has been provided for testing, will come into school at prescribed appointment slots, to receive their first lateral flow test. Following this, they will return home. All year groups will otherwise continue to work remotely at home.

Tuesday, 9 March – Y7 and Y10 students, for whom consent has been provided for testing, will come into school at prescribed appointment slots, to receive their first lateral flow test. Following this, they will return home. **All Y11, 12 and 13 students** who received a negative test result on Monday (together with those Y11, 12 and 13 students who have not consented to being tested but are not displaying symptoms) will return to school on Tuesday to resume their normal timetable. All other year groups will continue to work remotely at home.

Wednesday, 10 March – Y8 and Y9 students, for whom consent has been provided for testing, will come into school at prescribed appointment slots, to receive their first lateral flow test. Following this, they will return home. Students in other year groups who received a negative test result on Monday/Tuesday (together with those Y7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 students who have not consented to being tested but are not displaying symptoms) will return to school on Wednesday to resume their normal timetable.

Thursday, 11 March – All students in school, studying their normal timetable.

During this week, children of key workers or those identified as vulnerable will continue to be able to come into school to complete supervised work, until their year group bubble is back in school.



All results are uploaded to track & trace who will notify you of the result. If you do not receive a confirmation text or email please assume that your child's test was negative. If a child has a positive test result someone from school will contact you to advise on the next steps.

Face coverings in school

- The use of plain face coverings within school is compulsory for all students at breaktimes in the building and when moving between classrooms.
- However, in line with the latest advice, we are now also allowing face coverings to be worn in lessons, with the exception of PE, or where social distancing of 2 metres can be maintained. **The use of a face covering in classrooms is not compulsory, nor mandatory. But in keeping with national guidance they are, 'recommended' and 'should' be worn.**
- No student will be excluded from their education for not wearing a face covering in class. However, sanctions remain in place if students do not follow the expectations for the use of face coverings in corridors and inside social spaces.
- Students are not required to wear a face covering when outside at breaktimes.
- Students are required to bring clean, plain face coverings with them to school. The school cannot provide face coverings for students. Any student who does not arrive to school with a suitable face covering will be placed in Seclusion until a parent/carer is able to bring one into school.
- We will insist that students wear the face covering correctly and follow World Health Organisation advice on how to put these on and remove them safely. They should also have a plastic bag to store the face covering during lessons.

School day

Following their first test, students should arrive at school through their normal entry point at their assigned start time:

Y7 8:15 am; Y8 at 8:25; Y9 8.35; Y10 8.45 and Y11 8.55 to prevent them mixing with other Year Group Bubbles.

Post 16 students should arrive at their usual entrance and sign in with Mrs Pearson at 8:25 am. Partnership lessons will continue online until 16/17 March when testing has been completed in both centres.

Students will remain in their Year Group Bubbles, follow their usual timetable and will be taught by their usual teachers (wherever possible). The timings of the school day will remain the same as in the Autumn term and students will be expected to wear their school uniform (Years 7 – 11), bring relevant equipment each day (including PE kit when needed) and meet all our usual expectations, including our COVID risk mitigation measures.

As I have throughout the pandemic, thank you again for your continuing patience, understanding and support of the school. I very much hope that we do not face further enforced closures and we can return to a more normal existence. One where students and staff can thrive and we can all focus on the future. I will also upload a video briefing on Friday, 5 March, to the school YouTube account, to accompany this letter and our reopening document.

We are all genuinely excited to welcome our students back, and we look forward to seeing them all next week. They make this school what it is, a great place for us all to learn and grow as people in.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



Matthew West
Principal