



Monday, 01 March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

From the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March the Government are asking all schools to return. Whilst schools have been allowed to consider a staggered start, we have worked really hard to ensure that no more learning is lost. All students will have the opportunity to be tested once prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> March which then allows for a **whole school return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.**

The aim for this return phase will be on a happy, safe and engaging return to school. We will be focusing on the children's wellbeing through a return to routine, focusing on our **core values of Respect, Responsibility and Aspiration** whilst still progressing through our normal curriculum.

To ensure a safe return a full and updated risk assessment for phase four will be added to our website but please find below the key changes:

- As a school we will be approaching the recommendation for all students to wear a face mask in the classroom as just that, a 'recommendation'. We will be encouraging all our students to wear a mask in the classroom through the use of our values in that it shows our respect for each other and our responsibility to keep those in our school community safe.
- Pupils will still be required to wear their face masks in communal spaces and at transition times. This remains **mandatory** except for those with medical exemption.
- Covid asymptomatic testing - This will commence from 3<sup>rd</sup> March and through into week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March. We are asking you to return your consent forms electronically although paper copies are available on the day in school, from school reception and on our website. Please also refer to the Privacy Statement which will be sent out with the link to complete this electronically. Please note that a completed consent form by a parent or legal guardian (either electronically, or on paper) is required to allow your child to be tested.
- Year groups are invited to attend, on a **drop-in basis** as shown below. Should you wish your child to be tested, please ensure that they attend the correct session and allow adequate time as testing will finish at the times stated.

#### Covid asymptomatic testing dates

Day	AM (8.30 – 11.30)	PM (11.30 – 2.30)
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 11	Year 10
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9	Year 8
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7	Drop In for those unable to access earlier sessions – by agreement only

Please find below other key information I thought might be useful for you as we return next week.



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Headteacher: Paul Greenhalgh

**Year 11 Exams** - GCSEs have been cancelled by the government and these have been replaced with teacher assessed grades. Schools can determine grades by using a combination of mock exams, coursework and essays, with results released early August. We will give you further information once the official Ofqual guidance has been released.

**Parent Evenings** - We will be aiming to provide these virtually before the end of the year. We intend to use a software package that means parents can dial in from home to a virtual meeting with their child's teachers. The initial dates are outlined below;

- Week beginning 22.03.21 Year 7 - Form tutor evening
- Week beginning 19.04.21 Year 11 - academic focus
- Week beginning 10.05.21 Year 10 - academic focus
- Week beginning 06.06.21 Year 8 - academic focus
- Week beginning 28.06.21 Year 9 - academic focus

**Contacting school and coming into school** - Parents are encouraged to contact school by telephone or email, in the first instance, if they have any concerns. This is to reduce the number of visitors to the school entrance allowing reception staff to supervise the reception area, ensuring no more than two visitors are in this area at any one time.

**Uniform and Physical Activity** - Students will be required to wear **full** school uniform. Students will continue to be able to change for PE safely in school and therefore should attend in full uniform bringing their P.E. kit with them. This term we intend to prioritise outdoor sports where possible.

**Attendance** – From the 8<sup>th</sup> March the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- Parent / Carers' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school, where the child is a registered pupil, and they are of compulsory school age.
- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

**All Children should now be attending school with the exception of:**

- Children who are ill with illness not related to COVID19.
- Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating - have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Pupils who have been instructed to shield by their specialist health professional – evidence will be required
- Children of parents / carers who are following clinical and/or public health advice, – evidence will be required

**Structure of the Day** - A reminder of the structure of the school day, including start/end times and where your child should report to is included at the end of this document.

**Pupil safety, well-being and support** - We have increased the size of our pastoral support team and continue to have 25 minutes a day dedicated to form time activities and support for young people with a consistent member of staff. We have developed a bespoke PSHCE curriculum to support our pupils and will be highlighting our mental health support package in school.



**Behaviour expectations** - We will continue with our P-Point system and instant corrections, but we will also be focusing on our positive rewards, to create the right conditions to re-engage pupils in their learning and reintegrate them back into school life. We will hold reintegration assemblies for every year group to outline the standards and expectations required in this period of time.

#### Key Dates

- **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March** – Remote education continues
- **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** – pupil testing begins in school (please see the rota for details of year group sessions).
- **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March** – In order to be fully prepared for Monday including a deep clean of the school, the following will be in place:
  - There will be no 'live lesson provision' instead resources will be uploaded for independent/guided home learning encouraging a screen free day.
  - The vulnerable and key worker provision will be closed (reduced) to allow all staff time to access all areas of school and prepare for student return.
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March** - All students return and follow routines and structures outlined in attached reminder of the school day.

I hope this information goes some way to informing you of our plans and reassuring you that we are doing everything we can to provide a safe and quality education for all our students in these demanding circumstances.

Please do let us know if there is anything we can do better or if there is anything you need more information on. As information is released we will do all that we can to share this with you quickly. We are in this together and we want to make sure we all come through this in the best position we can.

I am looking forward to welcoming all the students back on March 8<sup>th</sup> and seeing you all again when hopefully we get back to some normality or even sooner through a virtual parents evening!

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Greenhalgh".

Mr P. Greenhalgh

**Headteacher**



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**The following reminder describes how a 'covid' school day works**

<p><b>Student arrival</b></p>	<p><b>Students will all arrive for 8.40am</b> but will be supervised and directed into 5 separate areas creating year group bubbles as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Y7 – Tennis court</li> <li>○ Y8 – Left half of AstroTurf</li> <li>○ Y9 – Right half of AstroTurf</li> <li>○ Y10 – Back yard</li> <li>○ Y11 – Dining room</li> </ul>
<p><b>AM Registration</b></p>	<p>There will be no AM form time, students will go from bubble areas to lessons they will be dismissed by year group to move one after the other into lessons</p>
<p><b>Lessons</b></p>	<p>Small adaptations to the classroom will be made by the site team to support distancing where possible. This will include seating pupils' side by side and facing forwards and moving unnecessary furniture out of classrooms to make more space. The teacher's desk will be placed at the front and where possible 2m in front of student desks.</p>
<p><b>Lesson transitions</b></p>	<p>Students will move between lessons and be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers where possible. We will have a firm duty rota in place for transitions to police a one-way system. At transition points all staff will be on doors/corridors to enforce this. Doors will be wedged open and all doors will be open for ventilation. Face masks must be worn.</p>
<p><b>Break time</b></p>	<p>We will integrate break time into an extended lesson period 2 allowing for a 15-minute break to be taken within this time in year group bubbles.</p>
<p><b>Lunch time</b></p>	<p>Lunch times are split into our already planned two sittings.            In lunch <b>A</b> there will be three areas (half of sports hall out to tennis court, studio out to back yard and canteen out to AstroTurf) with specified toilets for year 7.10 and 11.            In lunch <b>B</b> following a clean down only studio out to back yard and canteen out to AstroTurf will be used for years 8 &amp; 9.            These areas will all serve pre-ordered grab bags and have an indoor and outdoor bubble space for each year group.</p>
<p><b>End of school day</b></p>	<p><b>The end of the day will be staggered by year group,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Year 7 will leave at 2.40pm</li> <li>● Year 8 will leave at 2.45pm</li> <li>● Year 9 will leave at 2.50pm</li> <li>● Year 10 will leave at 2.55pm</li> <li>● Year 11 at 3pm to attend Session 7 until 3.30pm</li> </ul>
<p><b>Extra-curricular activities</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Corrections</u> – five designated areas, one per year group, staff will collect these students before their designated finish time and escort them to the year group bubble correction area.</li> <li>2. <u>Extra-curricular clubs</u> – These will continue but will be limited to year groups, we will reduce the number of clubs being offered.</li> <li>3. <u>Session 7</u> – These will be completed in year group bubbles according to the timetable already in place</li> </ol>