
Rob Pavey - Headteacher

25 February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Colleagues,

Return to school Monday 8 March

I am sure you are all aware of the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday that in-person teaching will start again on Monday 8 March, and that all students will be given three Lateral Flow Tests within the first two weeks. Here is an outline of our plans for bringing all our students back to school.

More details will come early next week.

Monday March 8

- **Online learning**; students will not join lessons in school before we have completed the first day of testing. Therefore Monday 8th will be another day of online lessons, except when students come to school to do the test.
- **Year groups invited in for a first Lateral Flow Test at set times.**
- The tests will be conducted simultaneously in the Assembly Hall, the Sports Hall and the Chadwick Gym.
- Students will return home after the test and continue with Monday's online lessons as normal.
- Online year group assembly

Tuesday March 9

- **All students should come to school at the normal time.**
- Normal school expectations apply: attendance, punctuality, uniform, equipment.
- Extended tutor time on Tuesday morning.

Thursday March 11

- Lateral Flow Test 2 for Years 7-11 to fit around the normal structure of lessons.

Friday March 12

- Lateral Flow Test 2 for Sixth Form students at 2pm.

Monday March 15

- Lateral Flow Test 3 for Years 7-11, as previously

Tuesday March 16

- Lateral Flow Test 3 for Sixth Form students at 2pm.

Testing venues

The only way we can test 1,600 students in a single day is to run large simultaneous tests across 3 venues. The disadvantage of this is a lack of privacy for individual students while doing the test. If this is going to be a major problem, please let us know in advance via year teams, and we will try to make alternative arrangements; this may well involve an extended period waiting for a more private test venue to be available. Please remember that students who find the throat swab impossible can do a nasal swab instead. We will circulate training videos and more information via tutor time over the next week.

Consent for testing

Participation in the Lateral Flow Tests is voluntary, although strongly encouraged. Students can themselves withdraw consent at any time, including when they are seated in the testing venue. Students aged 16 or over can give consent themselves, although we would encourage parents to express their view. Many of you have already given your consent for this; the attached Google Form is the same as before, so there is no need to do so twice, although there is no harm in doing so. If you fill it in twice, we will take the most recent version as representing your views.

Before giving your consent via the Google Form, it is necessary to read the linked documents.

[Link to consent information](#) , [Link to Privacy Notice](#), [Link to consent form](#)

Students aged 15 or below cannot have a test without parental consent. If you do not wish your child to take part in the testing, please do not send them to school with the rest of the year group on Monday 8 March. If you do not consent, please let us know via this form, to avoid us chasing you for an answer.

Wellbeing

Although the majority of our students will be delighted to get back to school and to see their friends again, we are very conscious that some students may find the transition stressful. To address some of these issues, we are running an extended tutor time on the first full day back, Tuesday 9 March, and we will have additional tutor sessions in subsequent weeks.

We are also aware that a number of our students will feel anxious about the return to school, and have thrived during online learning. If this applies to your child, please contact the year teams in the first instance, so we can discuss a more gradual return to school.

Routines

The usual hygiene and social distancing routines will still apply, as they did before Christmas. As a reminder, here are some of the key elements:

- Do not come to school with symptoms; book a PCR test.
- Respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it), hand washing and hand sanitiser are essential.
- In-school track and trace will continue as before, and we will ask close contacts of positive cases to self-isolate. The idea of allowing close contacts to remain in school and take a series of Lateral Flow Tests has been dropped.
- No physical contact in school, including hugs and handshakes.
- Masks must now be worn by both staff and students in buildings at all times, including in classrooms. This is the current guidance from the DfE, based on advice from Public Health England, and will be reviewed over the Easter holidays. Exemptions will apply as before Christmas, with green sunflower lanyards for those who do not need to wear a mask.
- Masks should be disposed of, or washed frequently.
- Please walk or cycle to school wherever possible, and we strongly urge parents not to congregate at the school gates after school.

We will also be returning to the split lunchtimes, so Year 7, 8, 12 and 13 will revert to having lunch at 1.30 rather than 12.30. Separate entrances, separate playgrounds and separate lunch queues will also be back, just as they were in December.

Homework

For the first two weeks back in school, we will continue with our current approach to homework, so there will be no homework for Years 7-9, Year 10 can expect homework in RE and Year 11 and above can expect homework and independent work as normal.

Uniform

From Tuesday 9 March, the normal [uniform expectations](#) apply. Students should wear their PE kit on PE days, but no hooded tops please.

Kind regards

Rob Pavey, Headteacher