



**GUISELEY
SCHOOL**

24 February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Wider reopening of schools from 8 March

I hope you and your families are well and have enjoyed the half-term break.

I am writing to you with an initial update on the reopening of school from Monday 8 March, following the Government announcement on Monday 22 February. We are delighted to be able to welcome students back to school and have been working through the operational guidance received on Monday so that we can ensure the safe return of students.

We will be phasing the return of students across the week commencing 8 March, **this means that not all students will be in school from Monday 8 March.**

Safety measures that were previously in place remain the same, but there a number of additional control measures and updates for you:

- **Three asymptomatic tests in school from Monday 8 March – Monday 22 March:** this will be offered to students onsite from Monday 8 March. Students will return to face-to-face education the day after their first negative test result. It is important to note that this is a self-swab test, which means that the student will complete the swabbing themselves, with a member of staff on hand to provide appropriate guidance.

We will only invite a student to be tested if we have received consent.

If you have not yet given consent, but wish for your child to be tested please complete the consent form by clicking on the link below. Please note that if you are giving consent you must do so by March 1 to allow us the time to plan this extremely complex testing regime.

[Click here for consent form](#)

All supporting information about consent which was sent in our letter dated 18 January can be found on our website by clicking the link below. Please ensure that you have read this if you have not yet given consent.

[Click here to access the website](#)

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Clayton



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- **Home testing from Monday 22 March:** following three onsite tests, students will move to a home testing model. Students will be provided with 2 tests a week to use at home. We await the delivery of these testing kits to school.

- **Staff testing:** staff will also be provided with two home testing kits each week.

- **Face coverings in lessons:** Government guidance now states that students must wear face coverings while in class and while moving around the indoor school environment. Face coverings can only be removed where it is guaranteed that social distancing can be maintained or when wearing a face covering would impact on the activity being undertaken, for example eating lunch or doing PE. For safety and hygiene purposes, we strongly recommend students use fabric face masks, and avoid the use of temporary masks which have a very limited lifespan.

Some students are exempt from wearing face coverings, for example if they have a physical impairment or it causes high levels of anxiety. If you feel this applies to your child, please notify their pastoral team.

We will be working with students to address good mask hygiene and to re-visit the safe and hygienic wearing and removal of face masks upon their return to school.

Phased return

Due to the size of our school population, we will need to phase the return of students to school. We have been working over the last six weeks to develop our testing capacity and our planning revolves around delivering 450+ tests per day. The new guidance states that Years 10-13 should be prioritised to return first. Our intention is to phase the return in the following way, whilst maintaining a remote provision:

Day	Students coming into school for their LFT testing;	Students returning to school on receipt of a negative test;
Monday 8 March	Years 11, 12 and 13	
Tuesday 9 March	Year 7 and 10	Years 11, 12 and 13
Wednesday 10 March	Year 8 and 9	Year 7 and 10
Thursday 11 March	Years 11, 12 and 13 (2 nd test)	Year 8 and 9
Friday 12 March	Year 7 and 10 (2 nd test)	All students have returned

Further details outlining the arrangements for returning to school will be sent to parents on 2 March.

We will write separately to the parents of students who have been attending Critical Worker provision to explain the arrangements for week commencing March 8.

Remote Learning

Remote learning will continue for cohorts whose return to school will be later in the week. Given the staffing pressures that will be created by the testing regime, these 3 days will not have the 'live' element that we have been delivering during the past few weeks. The work for students will continue to be posted on Teams and this will happen at the start of each day. Remote form time will continue for each cohort until they have returned to school.

Attendance

As you may be aware from Government guidance, school attendance will again be mandatory from 8 March, although students will be expected to return in line with our phased opening. If you are unable

to attend in line with public health guidance, for example if you are shielding or have to self-isolate, you will need to notify the school via info@guiseleyschool.org.uk

Uniform

All students will be expected to return to school in full uniform. We are aware that some children may have grown out of uniform since they were last in school, and therefore have confirmed with PC Sports that they are still open for collections. Similarly, many of the high street retailers are also operating either deliveries or click and collect services. We would expect there to be a significant demand for uniform and so would encourage families to check this week if their uniform still fits. If you are experiencing financial hardship and would benefit from support with the purchase of uniform, then you can apply for support here: <https://guiseleyschool.org.uk/parents-carers/uniform>

Key dates

A number of parents have asked about key dates for the remainder of this year and the 2021-22 academic year. Whilst we do not know what date Year 11 and Year 13 students will be expected to continue until, there are some key dates to be aware of:

April 1 is no longer a training day but will be the last day prior to the Easter holidays.

April 19 students return after the Easter break.

July 23 is the last day of the school year.

School will return in September for students on Tuesday September 7.

In addition, we have received confirmation from the DfE that we will be in a position to move into our new teaching block at May half-term. Whilst this is a huge logistical undertaking, we are also acutely aware of the lost learning time students have experienced. For this reason we will only take one **exceptional closure day to facilitate the move on May 28**. On Monday June 7 students will have a phased return to school in order to conduct the orientation programme for the new building. Further details will, of course, be sent nearer the time.

Exams

We still await the outcomes and guidance from the Ofqual consultation on how to conduct teacher assessments this year to replace the cancelled exams. As soon as we have more information we will write to parents in the affected year groups.

Wellbeing Survey

We recognise that whilst the majority of students are very much looking forward to returning to school, some individuals will inevitably have worries and concerns. As we have done previously, we will be conducting a student survey to get a good understanding of student wellbeing and to be able to signpost support where it is most needed. We would ask all students to complete this survey before 12:00 on Wednesday 3 March. The survey can be found by clicking [here](#) and is open to all year groups.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information to digest here. As mentioned, we will write again on March 2. This will be a year group specific communication with more information on the specific return details.

We are very much looking forward to the return of students and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Clayton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Paul Clayton
Headteacher