

2nd March 2021

Dear Families,

Further to my letter to you last week regarding the testing programme, I firstly wanted to thank you for the hugely positive response we've had to the request for consent for your children to be part of the testing programme for Covid-19 as school reopens. We have expanded our testing facility in school in order to ensure we are able to deliver the lateral flow testing programme as outlined in the letter last week.

Thank you as always for all of your fantastic support during this period of remote learning. We have been incredibly impressed and proud of the way our learners have responded to their remote learning, and the attendance and engagement levels are exceptionally strong in all year groups. As a staff team, we are so excited to be welcoming our young people back into school, and are looking forward to working with them to support their ongoing learning and progress over the coming months.

Year 11 – GCSE and BTEC Grades

The main consultation for the awarding of GCSE and BTEC grades for our Year 11 learners this summer has now closed, and grades will be awarded based on teacher assessments of the content covered so far for each subject. These grades will be subject to a robust moderation process to ensure fairness for all. We are still waiting on further information regarding the details of this, but in principle, the message to our Year 11 learners is that they should continue to engage fully with their learning in all subjects, and complete all work set to the very best of their ability. The formal mock exam weeks will not now be going ahead, but learners must revise and prepare thoroughly for the range of ongoing assessments they will be given in the different subject areas over the coming weeks and months in order to ensure they are giving themselves the best opportunity to secure the grades they deserve once the process is finalised. Please note, that grades are not able to be discussed with learners or their parents or carers and must remain confidential until the results day, which has now been changed to Thursday August 12th 2021.

Reopening Plans

As you are aware, the government announced last week that schools would reopen to all learners from March 8th. In order to facilitate the testing programme, and to support a full reintegration back into school life, secondary schools have been given the flexibility to stagger the return of learners over the course of this week. We will therefore be expecting our learners back according to the following schedule:

Date	Year group return date
Monday 8 th March 2021	Year 11
Tuesday 9 th March 2021	Year 10
Wednesday 10 th March 2021	Year 9
Thursday 11 th March 2021	Year 8
Friday 12 th March 2021	Year 7

Learners should attend school at 8.30am in full school uniform on the first day as outlined above. From the date of your child's induction, and following their initial lateral flow test and a period of induction, they will return to fulltime classroom based learning. In the interim, whilst awaiting their return to school, learners will continue to engage with remote learning from home. Learners should also ensure they have all of their equipment with them for each day, and we would welcome your support in helping them get back into the routine of packing their school bag the evening before so they are fully prepared for their learning. The week beginning 8th March is a Blue Week for the school timetable.

For public health reasons, please note that different schools may offer slightly different approaches to their reopening owing to schools having different requirements to ensure the reopening is Covid-secure and right for that school and their learners.

Please see attached a copy of the updated guide for parents and carers detailing all of the key information and measures to support a successful transition back into school. An assembly is being held for all learners on Wednesday 3rd March at 8.30am via Teams to provide them with the information they need to prepare for returning to school as well as giving them further details regarding the testing process, as we appreciate some young people are anxious about what this may look like. Learners have already been sent the link to this assembly.

Face Coverings

The vast majority of the guidance and the measures for the reopening of school are the same as those in place previously in the Autumn term. The key changes relate to the testing process and the use of face coverings in schools. The Department for Education Guidance advises that face coverings should now be worn both in communal areas and classrooms. In line with this, learners will be expected to wear a plain face covering in both classrooms and in communal areas when they return to school. The exception to this is during physical PE lessons or if they are eating or drinking in the dining hall. Given that learners will be wearing face coverings for longer periods of time, we would therefore ask that they carry a spare in a resealable plastic bag so that they can change it during the course of the day. Any learner who is exempt from wearing a face mask for medical reasons will of course be supported with this. If you feel this applies to your child and we aren't already aware of this, then please contact your child's Learning Leader in the first instance.

Please note, that from Monday 8th March, vouchers for those families eligible for free school meals will no longer be provided, and learners will receive their meal in school in the usual way.

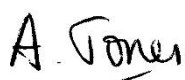
Support

Members of the senior leadership team, the safeguarding team, the SEND team and the pastoral support team are in school every day currently. If you feel that your child would benefit from any additional support or contact with school before they return, please do get in touch via the main school office in the first instance. We will continue to work with our learners to support their wellbeing as they return to school and re-engage with their peers, as we fully understand how challenging these past few months have been for everyone. Please contact Mrs Noble in school or see our website for further information regarding how you can access support more widely if you feel your child is struggling.

We are really looking forward to welcoming your child back into school, and please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor or Learning Leader in the first instance if there is anything we can support with.

Thank you for your ongoing support in your child's education.

Yours faithfully,



Andrea Jones
Headteacher