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1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, the Government has confirmed that all students will return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. As a school we are very much looking forward to welcoming back all our students following the latest lockdown. Again, I would like to thank you for your support and cooperation to ensure that our students have continued to access their learning at home.

Please be assured that the school is a safe environment and we have continued with all of our COVID-19 protocols and followed our robust risk assessments. To facilitate the safe return to school I wanted to set out several specific points in this letter.

### Testing

- All students will be tested for COVID-19 using 'lateral flow tests', firstly at school and then at home. Please can you sign up to consent for your child to be tested – links have been sent out via text message, but are also available on the school website:  
<https://www.newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk/parents/consent-form-for-nhs-test-and-trace-covid-19-testing>  
Students that are already 16 years old are able to provide this consent for themselves and have been sent a link through MS Teams.
- In order for testing in school to take place safely, we have planned for a phased return of the whole cohort – during the first seven school days (from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March to Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March) students will have a blended offer with both virtual and onsite provision in place. We will send text reminders each evening and morning about your child's timetable for that day as a supportive measure – the phased return timetable is at the end of this letter.
- Whilst it is not compulsory to take these tests, the Government's health advice is that effective testing helps to stop the virus spreading and will mean that schools are as safe as possible. Therefore, I would strongly encourage you to provide consent.
- Students who we have consent for will be tested by trained staff, three times at school in the first two weeks back.
- After the first two weeks back at school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home – we will send out further information by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March about the home testing.

As mentioned, trained staff will supervise the first three tests taken at school. Lateral flow tests are quick and easy to administer, using a swab of your throat and nose. This has been regular practice with our staff since the beginning of January.

### Face Coverings

- The Government has recommended the use of face coverings indoors – including in classrooms. Windows and doors will remain open for full ventilation. This policy will be reviewed over the Easter Holidays so will be in place until at least the end of the term, which finishes on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This applies to students, staff and visits (including parents) unless they are exempt from wearing one and have indicated the reasons why they are exempt.
- School will provide your child with a reusable face covering upon their return, I would like to ask for your support in ensuring that they remember to bring this to school daily.

- As we have mock examinations taking place from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, we have ensured that the desks are at least 2 metres apart – this means that your child does not have to wear a face covering while in their exam (however, this will not apply to those students that are entitled to a reader / scribe).

### **Attendance**

School attendance will be mandatory from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. This means, from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- A parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school, where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age.
- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absences.
- The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authority's code of conduct.

### **Uniform**

Students will be expected to return to school in full school uniform from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. On the days they have PE, they will continue to come to school in their kit, with their blazer over their kit. They may still wear plain black/grey jogging/track suit bottoms along with their PE kit. However, please be advised, they will not need to wear PE kit (with blazer) until Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March when they will have their first PE lesson.

### **Essential Measures**

Below is a list of essential measures we will adhere to in order to reduce the risk of transmission:

- A requirement that people who are ill stay at home – please ensure your child does not attend if they (or anyone in their household) is showing any of the COVID symptoms.
- Wearing of face coverings indoors and improved ventilation of indoor spaces.
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene – this will be encouraged regularly, as it was before Christmas.
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements – this has been carefully considered within our planning.
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace – we will continue to engage fully with the advice and guidance from Public Health England and the NHS Test and Trace team.

### **Remote Learning Plans**

Students will continue with their LIVE lessons until Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, when there will be a blended offer in place until everyone is back onsite full time on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Should any students be required to self-isolate they will be able to follow their normal school timetable on MS Teams.

### **Free School Meals / Food and Drink on site**

- All those that are entitled to Free School Meals, have received weekly vouchers since Christmas – this will continue up to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March as students will not be onsite to receive their lunch during this phased return.
- During the phased return (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March), the canteen will only be open at break for those that have been in school from 8.45am.

As always, we will have high standards and expectations and will remind students of these on their return, so that every student is able to get the most out of lessons without distraction from anyone who has forgotten the good behaviours we insist on at NGHS. Finally, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Jones  
Head of School