

Newall Green High School
Greenbrow Road
Wythenshawe
Manchester
M23 2SX

t:0161 413 8546 f:0161 437 6125
newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk



26th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am pleased that the students have quickly settled into the routine of being back onsite. Whilst we have been delighted with our remote learning offer, nothing is as good as being in the classroom, and it is lovely to see our students engaged with their lessons and creating evidence portfolios to support their teachers in allocating grades.

Home Testing

The COVID testing has gone extremely well and I am so proud of how the students have responded to this to help stop the spread – over 90% of our students completed their initial testing onsite. As you know, all students and staff have now moved to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping our school as safe as possible. It has been confirmed by the Department for Education (DFE) that all staff and secondary aged students should continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays. We will be providing extra kits for the Easter holiday on Wednesday 31st March. This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If your child has symptoms, they must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines. You must continue to report their result to both the school and the NHS in the usual way over the Easter break.

We are asking that all students get into the routine of testing every Monday and Thursday. It is important that all staff and students test before returning to school for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases.

Contact tracing over the Easter holidays

We have been asked by the DFE to continue to provide contact tracing information over the Easter holidays. We are therefore asking that you inform us immediately of a positive case of the virus, where your child develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. Please send an email to admin@newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk to report any positive results. This is because they may have been infectious whilst in school and we will need to identify close contacts and advise on self-isolation. If they develop symptoms more than 48 hours after being in school, and then test positive, you should still report this to school and on the NHS website, but school will not be involved in the contact tracing process.

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

Regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread. Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular COVID-19 testing.

Free School Meals

For those families that are in receipt of Free School Meals, you will be emailed a £30 voucher on Thursday 1st April – this is to cover the two-week Easter break. We ask that you download the voucher before Friday 23rd April 2021.

Attendance

We are extremely happy with the high attendance that students have shown upon their return to full time education on site. This will ensure they have every opportunity to provide extensive evidence portfolios across all their subjects which their teachers will use to allocate their final grade. However, please can we remind you to contact school on 0161 4138546 (select 1 for attendance) if your child is not going to be in school.

Teacher Assessed Grades

As you are aware the government have asked teachers to give assessed grades for the courses your child will complete this summer. Guidance will continue to come through over the coming weeks, but I wanted to update you on the current situation. Here are the most up to date answers I can give you to the following questions:

Who will decide on my child's grade?

Your child's teacher will submit a Teacher Assessed Grade, but the school is expected to moderate the grades of all the students to make sure they are accurate and fair. Exam boards will then sample the evidence used by schools as a further quality assurance before the grades are issued. Ultimately it is the Exam Board's responsibility to make a final decision.

How will my child's teachers decide on the Teacher Assessed Grade?

Your child's teacher will use a broad range of evidence from different sources, including exams, unit-tests, remote learning and assessments over the whole of the course. To give students the best chance of providing this evidence we will continue "as normal" so that learners have the maximum time to contribute towards this evidence base.

What if my child has missed an important assessment point?

The school will try and provide catch up sessions for students, but this will almost certainly be outside of normal school hours. If a student fails to complete assessments it will inevitably mean they are unlikely to reach the grade of which they are capable.

When will my child's teacher determine their grade?

The government advice is that this should be as late as possible in the academic year to enable teaching to continue for as long as possible. We therefore expect teaching to go well into June.

When will my child have an indication of their grade?

There will be no 'predicted grades' this year. After Easter, and as your child produces more evidence, teachers will be able to give an indication of a grade, but this should not be taken as a final grade.

What happens if my child does not complete the whole of the course?

Teachers must assess a student's performance, only on the content which has been delivered to them by their teachers. So, if only 75% of the course has been covered your child will be judged on that 75%, not the 25% that they have not covered. This could include content that has been delivered face to face in the classroom or through remote learning. Students who have not engaged in remote learning will inevitably be at a disadvantage, but those who have worked hard at home will be deservedly rewarded.

Will the exam boards be providing any assessments?

Yes. A package of support materials to include questions and mark schemes with advice on grades will be provided. We have yet to receive this material but we expect that it will be helpful for us to use within school, the exam board materials will only be part of the range of evidence used by teachers to determine grades.

Are all courses treated the same?

No. There will be different plans for different courses depending on whether they are exam based or coursework based. Where there are non-exam assessments in a course the coursework will contribute significantly or wholly to the final grade. Therefore, students should continue to work on their coursework for as long as possible.

When will my child receive their results?

Results days will be on 12th August 2021 for GCSE. More details will follow about how we will distribute the results closer to the time.

I realise that this is a worrying time for both you as a parent and your child. We will continue to update you as we receive further information. The best advice we can give your child is the same as we give every year. This is to work hard and try your very best.

Key Dates

- Finish for Easter: Wednesday 31st March 2021.
- Return to school: Monday 19th April 2021.
- Bank Holiday (students not in school): Monday 3rd May 2021.
- June half term: Monday 31st May 2021 – Friday 4th June 2021.

As always, if there is anything, we can do to help your family then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Jones

Head of School