



3 March 2021

Dear parents, guardians and carers

RE: Return to school

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of arrangements for the return to school. Some of the information here has already been included in communication with **some** parents. To ensure everyone is aware of our plans, I have included the same details below. Please note that **students who have been attending school during the lockdown period will receive a separate communication about their plans before the weekend.**

1. Lateral Flow Test Days

We can confirm that the provisional plan for students to begin returning to school will go ahead as previously indicated. We look forward to welcoming all students back next week.

On the Lateral Flow Test days, students will only attend for their test. Please remind your child not to congregate with their friends either before or after the test. We must all continue with social distancing and the wearing of masks in public places. As tempting as it will be to socialise, they must move promptly to return home to continue with the work that has been set on Google Classroom.

Monday 8 March	Testing Year 10/11
Tuesday 9 March	Year 10/11 return to school – normal school day Testing only: Year 7/12/13/14
Wednesday 10 March	Year 7/12/13/14 return to school – normal school day Year 10/11 normal school day Testing only: Year 8/9
Thursday 11 March	Year 8/9 return to school – normal school Testing only: Year 7/10/11/12/13/14 normal school day

Please note that parents and Sixth Form students that have consented to the Covid Lateral Flow Test **should have received an email outlining the time to attend** their day for the test. **If you have not** received your time, please first check your junk mail/spam. Failing that, please email us: school@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk. This communication will also have outlined the route that students must use in order to access the Lateral Flow Test venue (the Dance Studio).

Our staff have provided a short [video](#) to talk through the testing process and attached information regarding how to self-swab. **Please can you ensure that students are aware of the testing process before they attend school.** Also, a negative result must not be regarded as a reason to compromise on safe distancing, hand-hygiene and mask wearing. Please stress this at home.

2. Normal School Days

One of the best things we can do for our students is to re-establish the superb relationships and routines that typify our school. Students must be in full uniform, wear a mask, and wear a coat if conditions require it - both on the day of their test and when normal lessons resume. Please support us by going through the school's basic [expectations](#) with your child before they return. Nothing is more likely to upset the post-lockdown equilibrium than any unnecessary challenges about uniform, PE kit punctuality, attendance, equipment or the use of mobile

phones. We will be asking students out of respect for the health and well-being of others to maintain mask wearing on site.

To address a number of enquiries that have come through as 'frequently asked questions':

Will children of Key Workers provision discontinue?

We are sending separate communication to yourselves to explain this more fully.

Can my child wear their PE kit as uniform?

Yes, but only on the days that PE appears on their timetable – only. 'Misreading of the timetable' is not a legitimate excuse.

Will the drive be opened to parents' cars?

Not for the foreseeable future. We are looking to increase the bus provision on a trial basis.

Will new bus services be available on site?

From Tuesday, buses 401 and 407 will come on to the school site in the morning. Obviously, the safe-distancing will require students to use the drive as a pedestrianised area too.

When will breakfast club begin?

From Tuesday 9th we will cautiously resume this provision. Students must remain in their zoned areas of the canteen.

What revision classes will be happening?

The government is still to send out specific details about Y11 and Y13 assessments. However, we know that students are to be assessed "using evidence from across the duration of students' courses". We will initially prioritise those students most likely to be disadvantaged from reaching their intended destination.

Subjects which we will initially prioritise for P6 are courses with practical elements which involve skills that students will need for Advanced Level and Level 3 BTEC courses (Y11) or for degree level courses and Advanced Apprenticeships (Y13). These elements will also form the basis of their non-examined assessments in their current courses. This will be kept under review, while we wait for additional guidance.

What provision will be made for my child's mental and emotional health as they return?

- We need parents to ensure that children are fully equipped and prepared for school (See [expectations](#)) so that we can welcome them back and quickly re-establish new routines.
- Our newly appointed Director of Health and Fitness - Ms Wilkins, has established some new plans within the constraints of the government guidelines. These include:
 - Extra-curricular classes being phased back in from 15th March;
 - A Well-being Toolkit will be introduced through tutor time;
 - Greater signposting to key staff in school e.g. those with Mental Health First Aid training;
 - We will be rolling out a '5 Ways To Well-Being' initiative too.

Finally we would really appreciate parental support with the Well Being Day that is being run through Google Classroom on Monday. This is an essential bridge to a smooth transition to happier, safer and more successful days ahead.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gray
Headteacher