



02 March 2021

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families continue to stay safe and well. Further to my letter last week, I would like to share with you our plans for the full re-opening of school next week.

Attached to this letter you will also find a guide, outlining the key safety measures in place from next week, along with other important information. I would urge you to read through this carefully to make sure you and your child are fully aware of how school will continue to operate during the current restrictions.

### School Re-opening Plan

We are required to carry out asymptomatic testing ahead of students returning to the classroom. In order to manage this safely, year groups will attend school for testing on a staggered basis – see timetable below for dates for **testing** and dates for the **return of each year group to school for face to face lessons**.

***Please look out for a separate email this week which will give you a time slot when your child should attend school for testing. Please let us know as a matter of urgency if your email address or mobile number have changed recently to ensure we have your up-to-date contact details.***

	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 11	Y11 students attend school for testing only Remote lessons	Y11 students return to school for face-to-face lessons	Normal lessons in school	Normal lessons in school	Normal lessons in school	Normal lessons in school
Year 10	Remote lessons at home	Remote lessons at home	Y10 students attend school for testing only Remote lessons	Remote lessons at home	Year 10 students return to school for face-to-face lessons	Normal lessons in school
Year 9	Remote lessons at home	Remote lessons at home	Remote lessons	Y9 students attend school for testing only Remote lessons	Year 9 students return to school for face-to-face lessons	Normal lessons in school
Year 8	Remote lessons at home	Remote lessons at home	Y8 students attend school for testing only Remote lessons	Remote lessons	Year 8 students return to school face-to-face lessons	Normal lessons in school
Year 7	Remote lessons at home	Y7 students attend school for testing only Remote lessons	Y7 students return to school for face-to-face lessons	Normal lessons in school	Normal lessons in school	Normal lessons in school



If you have any concerns about your son/daughter returning to school or you are unsure about the schedule above, please contact your child's Year Leader in the first instance.

We will do all we can to make sure that the transition back into school is as smooth as possible and I am confident that students will adapt quickly and the plans that we have in place will ensure a positive learning experience for all.

With very best wishes.

**Mrs Johnson**  
**Headteacher**



## Full School Re-opening Information March 2021

### Attendance

From March 2021 attendance in school is compulsory for all students following their initial return date. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's Year Leader or our attendance team to discuss how we may be able to offer support. Please keep in close contact with us should your child be unwell and unable to attend school. Students should not attend if they are displaying any COVID symptoms – see below.

### COVID symptoms

Students should not attend if they are displaying any COVID symptoms. These are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not necessarily need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**If your child has any of these symptoms, they should not attend school, should self-isolate at home and you should seek a test.** Please keep us informed as soon as possible of the outcome.

### Equipment

Students should bring their school bag to school every day. We will re-issue every student with school equipment when they return to school in March. This will include a pencil case with stationery along with tissues and a personal hand sanitiser.

### Exams and Assessment

Year 11 students will undertake a series of assessments in school from **Monday 26 April to Friday 7 May**. This is to support teacher assessment and provide evidence to contribute to a final teacher assessed grade. Students in other year groups will undertake end of year assessments later in the summer term and we will share further information when dates are confirmed.

### Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn by all adults and students when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.



The government now also recommends that face coverings should be worn by students in classrooms or during activities where social distancing cannot be maintained. We will therefore be asking students to comply with this new guidance, which also states that students should consider bringing a spare face covering to wear if their face covering becomes damp during the day. We would ask for your support in reminding your son/daughter to bring a face covering to school each day and wear it as requested – this is an important message to help keep everyone safe and well. Any students who persistently forget to bring a face covering to school will be asked to pay a nominal charge of 20p for a disposable daily mask.

## Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals you will have received vouchers from school or via Edenred during school closure. Once students return to school these vouchers will cease and students will once again access their meal entitlement from the school canteen.

## Home Testing

Following the initial return to school and three on-site asymptomatic tests for students, there will be a move to twice-weekly home testing in line with government guidance. We will share further information next week with precise instructions on how these tests should be carried out at home. Please can I encourage all families to take part in this asymptomatic testing to support us in keeping the school open safely for everyone.

## Parents' Evenings

We are planning to hold parents' evenings during the summer term. It is likely that these will be remote via Microsoft TEAMS and we will update you further when details are confirmed.

## Remote Education

As we return to face-to-face lessons in school, any students who are absent from school for any COVID related reason (for example they are self isolating) will still be able to attend live lessons and access class resources and homework through Microsoft TEAMS in the same way that they have during school closure. This will mean that they do not miss out on learning and can follow the exact lessons and content that they would normally follow in school.

## Risk Assessment

To ensure the safety of staff and students as we re-open the school, we have updated our full school risk assessment. This can be found on the school website here:

<https://www.birkenheadparkschool.com/coronavirus>



## School Day

The timings of the school day will remain the same as the autumn term – see diagram below:

B/fast Club	Tutor Time	1	Break Time	2	Lunch 1	3	4	5	Entrance	Exit	Zone	Lunch
8:00 8:30	8:35 9:20	9:20 10:20		10:35 11:35	11:35 12:05	12:05 1:05	1:05 2:05	2:05 3:00				
Y10		Zone							Main	Main	Humanities	Y7 Yard
Y11		Zone							Main	Main	Science	Yard

B/fast Club	Tutor Time	1	Break Time	2	3.1	Lunch 2	3.2	4	5	Entrance	Exit	Zone	Lunch
8:30 8:50	8:45 9:20	9:20 10:20		10:35 11:35	11:35 12:05	12:05 12:35	12:35 1:05	1:05 2:05	2:05 3:00				
Y7		Zone								Year 7 Yard	Year 7 Yard	Base	Main Yard

B/fast Club	Tutor Time	1	Break Time	2	3	Lunch 3	4	5	Entrance	Exit	Zone	Lunch
8:30 8:45	8:45 9:20	9:20 10:20		10:35 11:35	11:35 12:35	12:35 1:05	1:05 2:05	2:05 3:00				
Y8		Main Yard							Main	Year 7 Yard	English	Y7 Yard
Y9		Small Yard							Main	Main	Maths	Yard

Students will continue to be taught in their own year group ‘bubble’, based in a designated area of the school. There will be staggered start and end times to the school day as previously and students should arrive at school at the specified time for their year group. They will be directed to the canteen, where they can access a free breakfast.

## Transport

Students are encouraged to avoid public transport by walking or cycling to school where possible. Should students need to travel to school by bus, this service will run as normal. In line with government guidance, a face covering would need to be worn whilst on public transport. This would need to be removed as students arrive at school and replaced with a separate face covering for use in school.

## Uniform

Full school uniform should be worn by all students once they return for face-to-face lessons in school. Please contact your child’s Year Leader if you have any concerns regarding school uniform.