



PRINCIPAL:
VICE PRINCIPAL:

MR S GODDEN
MR D PALMER

24th February 2021

RE: Wider re-opening of schools from 8th March

Dear Parents & Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday, we are both excited and relieved that ALL pupils will be able to return to school from Monday 8th March. We are thankful for all you have done to support pupils with remote learning, and would like to congratulate our pupils on their fantastic efforts in this area also; however, the entire staff know that we can have the greatest impact when working with pupils in the classroom.

This letter outlines the key information you need to know in relation to the full return to school. You will have received an additional letter alongside this one that will detail the specific arrangements for your child – please read this carefully.

Re-opening schedule

The school begins to re-open to all pupils from the 8th March. However, prior to their return, pupils will be required to have a Lateral Flow Test and a confirmed negative result. As I am sure you can appreciate, this provides a huge logistical challenge, and as such not all pupils will return to school on the 8th. Please see the accompanying letter with full details of your child's return.

COVID Safe Measures

All systems that were in place at the end of the Autumn Term will continue. This includes:

- Staggered timing of the school day (attached for your convenience)
- Identified entry / exit routes for pupils
- Year Group Bubbles
- Split break / lunches and designated Year Zones
- Enhanced cleaning and hand washing / sanitising

Uniform & Equipment

- Pupils are to wear full school uniform.
- On the days pupils have PE, they should wear their PE kit to school – there will be no changing facilities available. Please note, this **must be correct PE kit: White Polo Shirt & Navy/Black Shorts**. Pupils may choose to wear this underneath their school sweatshirt & trousers.
- It is essential that pupils are suitably prepared for school and are fully equipped. This includes the 'Trinity 5' (black/blue pen, a pencil, a ruler, an eraser, reading book).
- We would also ask pupils to ensure they have a set of wired headphones for Music lessons.



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Face Coverings

In the Autumn term, we were very pleased that pupils were pro-active and supported the measures we implemented re: wearing face coverings when moving across the building.

The guidance has now been changed, and as such **pupils are required to wear a face covering at all times, including in lessons**. Face visors are no longer permitted as an alternative to a face covering, but may be worn in addition.

The following exemptions apply:

- If a pupil is exempt on medical grounds (in which case parents/carers must inform the school and pupils will be asked to wear a discreet badge)
- When outside at break & lunch
- When eating/drinking in a designated canteen
- When instructed to remove a face covering by a member of staff to enable engagement in a lesson, for example within PE.

Given the increased expectation in this area, we strongly advise that pupils use washable/reusable masks. We also ask that pupils carry a spare mask with them each day, as they will be used for prolonged periods of time. The school is unable to provide face coverings for pupils.

There are a range of medically approved face coverings on the market, the majority of which are inexpensive and actually more cost effective and environmentally friendly than disposable masks. There are also many instructional videos available online detailing how to create a homemade face covering. The following link is provided to support with this:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>

If you have any issues in sourcing suitable face coverings for your child, please contact the school in order that we can support you.

Lateral Flow Testing

A key element of the return to school plan involves the use of Lateral Flow Testing. Over 90% of the school have provided consent to allow their child to participate in testing on site. Following the first test your child will take (details attached), pupils will be required to take two further tests on site. It is our intention for all pupils to have received three Lateral Flow Tests by **17th March**.

After this point, pupils will be asked to conduct twice-weekly testing from home. This will involve the use of simple to use tests, and we will support families and pupils with this nearer the time. All testing equipment and instructions will be issued by the school.



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If you have not responded to the consent request, or if you have denied consent for testing, your child should return to school in-line with the start date provided for their year group.

Attendance & Absence Reporting

Please be aware, that in line with the current guidance and upon instruction from the Department for Education, attendance is compulsory for all pupils. We appreciate that, following a prolonged period out of school, some pupils and families may be feeling anxious about the return. If this applies to you, please contact the school as soon as possible so that a member of staff can discuss the vast range of effective measures we have in place to ensure a safe return of all pupils with you.

In the event of an absence, Covid-19 related or otherwise, parents and carers must continue to inform the school on the Absence line: 01322 463041 and 01322 463044 for Sixth Form.

Everything contained above is correct as of today, and is as a result of the careful consideration of the guidance issued by the Government and Department for Education. We will continue to update you with relevant information as required. As we begin the wider return of pupils, we are ready to respond to changing guidance and will regularly review our approach to ensure the safety of all members of the community.

Whilst we will inevitably face a number of challenges over the coming days and weeks, we know from experience that we will work together as a community to overcome them, living the school values of Hope, Compassion and Forgiveness.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Simon Godden
Principal