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6 March 2021

Full return to school

Dear parents, carers, and students

We are looking forward to welcoming all students back to school week beginning 8th March. I am writing with some reminders about this return.

Return dates

Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will return to lessons in school on Tuesday 9th March. Years 7, 8 and 9 will return to lessons in school on Wednesday 10th March.

All school transport will run from Tuesday, following the routes and times in place before Christmas. Full catering facilities will be offered. Students will return to their normal timetable.

Students should return whether or not they have had a lateral flow test.

For those studying at home, work will be set on Monday and Tuesday by teachers. There will be no live lessons on Monday 8th March as teachers are in school preparing for students' return.

System of control

The precautionary measures in place in relation to Covid-19 are almost identical to those in place before Christmas. Information is available on the school website.

The significant change is that students will be asked to wear face coverings in all indoor spaces (including lessons and study areas) and when moving around the site. They may choose to remove these when eating and in the outdoor year group zones at break and lunch. This does not apply to those with medical exemptions, which should be cleared with the student's Head of Year. This additional measure is advised by Government and is expected to be in place until Easter.

Those who have opted in to lateral flow tests will also be offered two home-test kits each week once they have received three in-school tests. It is a requirement that students are tested in school before home testing so that they are familiar with how to carry out the tests.



Reminders

In preparation for students' return to school, we would suggest:

- Checking your account balance on Parent Pay if students will be purchasing food.
- Checking uniform, equipment, and books are ready. We start back on Week B.
- Checking when the first PE lesson is and making sure to wear PE kit on that day.
- Checking bus times.
- Students should have a face mask and spare in their bag.

Covid-19 symptoms

Students must not return to school if they are symptomatic or if they have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace.

Making the return positive

Everyone's experience of lockdown, and their response to it, is different. We understand that some students will be excited to be back at school whilst others may be anxious.

We aim to make the return to school positive. We want to get students back into routines quickly because this provides a sense of normality and stability.

We encourage students to do three things to make their transition back to school as smooth as possible:

1. Get back into good habits quickly – getting up on time, packing bags the night before, and getting homework done.
2. Follow the systems we have in school to keep everyone safe.
3. Stay positive and talk to us if you have any concerns – we are all on the same team.

For those in Year 11 and 13, it is particularly important that we stay positive. We are here to support students in the months and years ahead and the future is full of possibility!

Yours sincerely



Matthew Evans
Headteacher