

2 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Return to School - Year 9

We are really looking forward to welcoming your son/ward back to school and to on-site lessons. I do hope that he is ready for the return and enthusiastic about the opportunity of being back in classes and learning with his peers.

This letter sets out the arrangements for your son/ward's return, so I would be grateful if you would check the details and ensure that you are familiar with them. The arrangements are specific to Year 9 students.

Due to the complexity of the testing programme, we are phasing the return of students to school, so there will be a mix on remote and on-site learning over the first few days.

Lateral Flow Testing

We have been asked to test your son/ward for coronavirus (COVID-19) at school. If you consent, we will give him three tests over two weeks and, once these tests have been completed, then ask you to support him in taking two tests a week at home.

These tests aim to identify any student testing positive for COVID-19. If your son/ward tests positive, he will then be asked to self-isolate to prevent any further viral spread.

Return to School and First Test

Year 9 students are to complete the set work at home for Monday 8, Tuesday 9 and for the first three lessons of Wednesday 10 March.

Those **who have consented** to being tested must then to return to school for the first lateral flow test at:

1.00pm on Wednesday 10 March.

Students will enter the school via their normal designated gate and they will be shown to the testing venue where they will be guided through the test by trained staff. This process will include registration, the test itself and showing the students how to read the results.

If your son/ward returns a positive test, we will inform you of the result and give you further advice about self-isolation.

Students **who have not consented** to taking part in the testing programme are **not** to attend school on 10 March.

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Return to Lessons and Further Tests

All Year 9 students, except those who test positive for COVID-19, then to return to school for normal face-to-face lessons at:

8.30am on Thursday 11 March.

For students who have consent, the two further tests will take place during the school day on the morning of Monday 15 March and the morning of Thursday 18 March.

From Monday 22 March, we will be issuing home testing kits for all consenting students and further details will follow about how to undertake these tests.

At-A-Glance

WHO?	TIMINGS	WHAT?
Monday 8 March		
All students	8.30am - 2.50pm	Remote Learning at home.
Tuesday 9 March		
All students	8.30am - 2.50pm	Remote Learning at home.
Wednesday 10 March		
All students.	8.30am - 12.00pm (Periods 1, 2 & 3)	Online from 8.40am for set work and Remote Learning at home.
Students consenting for test	12.00pm	Preparation and travel to school.
	1.00pm	Arrival and Lateral Flow Test.
Students not consenting for test	12.00 - 2.50pm	Remain at home for self-directed private study.
Thursday 11 March		
All students	8.30am	Attend school at 8.30am and return to timetable.

COVID-19 Safety – Face Coverings

It remains really important to keep safety measures in place on the school site. Your son/ward will be used to our safety procedures but he should note that face coverings are now to be worn in classrooms where social distancing cannot be preserved. This is likely to apply in all Year 9 classes, so please do ensure that your son/ward is aware of this new requirement.

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Appearance Policy & School Equipment

Please note that your son/ward is expected to be in full school uniform and to conform to the school's published Appearance Policy. In addition, he should also ensure that he has all the necessary equipment for the return to school and to learning.

I look forward to seeing your son/ward back in school and thank you for supporting us with the home learning over the past few weeks.

Yours faithfully,



Euan Ferguson
Headteacher

