

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really pleased that we are able to start welcoming all students back to onsite learning at The Park from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. After the government announcements this week, we had clarification from the Department of Education of the plans to be put in place for the safe return of students to onsite learning. The guidance says that:

- 'During the week commencing the 8<sup>th</sup> March all secondary school age pupils will be offered asymptomatic testing on site. Vulnerable children and children of critical workers in secondary schools should continue to be able to attend school throughout unless they receive a positive test result.'
- 'Home testing is being introduced for secondary age pupils (11+) and college students. It is important that students are initially supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on-site, at an asymptomatic test site (ATS).'
- 'Secondary age students will need to wear a face covering in lessons'.

We are running a small testing centre with our own staff which has capacity to test a year group at a time. In order to provide an asymptomatic testing programme for students, we will need to stagger when students return. All students will continue to follow the remote learning timetable in school and at home. Each year group will return on the following days:

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March - Staff and key worker/vulnerable students in school only
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Y11 return to school
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Y10 return to school
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March - Y9 return to school
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Y8 return to school
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March - Y7 return to school

Below is a set of additional notes to explain some of the other details:

- **Consent for testing** - The consent form has been sent out with this letter. You will need to print this form, complete it, scan it and send back via email to the school office. If this is not possible please complete and send in with your child on their first day back at school.
- **Home testing** - We will distribute the voluntary home testing packs and notes about how to use them with school transport /directly to parents at pick-up. You will also be able to watch a video created by staff to demonstrate how to conduct the test so that your child will be prepared on return.
- **Innovate** - Please sign up for Innovate lunches by Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March for the days your son or daughter is in school the following week
- **Transport** - Please let transport know which day your son or daughter will be returning to school
- **Face masks** - The guidance now says that staff and students will need to wear a face covering in lessons as well as around school. Students will need to bring a clean face covering each day and keep it with them at all times. We understand that there is a small number of students who are not wearing face coverings for whom this change will not apply.

- **Timetable and routines**- The timetable, routines and timings of the day will be same as the autumn term. Students will still be learning in their bubbles and zones with limited movement around the site. We will have the same drop off (8.50am-9am) and finish to the day (2.50pm -3pm).
- **Live lessons/sessions** - Staff will be providing both onsite and remote learning during the week of the 8th March but live lessons will be limited to the tutor zoom first thing in the morning. Please note that there will be no live tutor on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February due to staff tests.
- **Building work** - The building project will be starting this half term. To ensure as little disruption as possible, the building compound and fencing will be set up next week before students return and the field will be reduced in size to accommodate the building work area.

If you have any questions, please ask the member of the leadership team responsible for your son or daughter's year group:

Y7 Michelle Stephenson  
Y8/9 Mattie McCarthy  
Y10/11 Lorraine Walton.

We would like to thank you for your support throughout lockdown and appreciate your support in advance as students return to onsite learning.

Your sincerely

Paul Walsh