

Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re. Reopening Welcome Back

As you're likely aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all students from Monday 8th March 2021. We're very much looking forward to welcoming back our students to face-to-face education then.

School attendance

The latest [government guidance](#) on school reopening can be found here. School attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, students should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

In line with the latest government guidance, students who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice.

For students who are self-isolating or shielding, we'll continue to provide a full remote offer blended of online lessons, wellbeing check ins and work packs.

Coronavirus testing

Sevenhills and Phoenix Park

To help us keep everyone safe, we'll be offering rapid coronavirus testing to all our students as they return from 8 March. Students will be asked to take 3 coronavirus tests at school, with 3 to 5 days between each test. Test results will take about 30 minutes to process.

Students can return to school after their first negative result. If at any point they test positive, they'll need to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

Testing is voluntary, and you and/or your child will need to give consent for it to be carried out. However, we strongly encourage your child to take part so we can help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

If your child is not participating in testing, they should attend school as usual

After the 3 initial tests at school, students will be offered coronavirus tests that they should take twice a week at home. We are asking students test each Sunday and Wednesday at home (see attached guidance)

Phoenix House

Please note that primary aged students are not required to be tested. KS3 students have been given home kits to commence testing before they return and are then to follow the home testing guidance.

Our safety measures

Rest assured that we're doing everything we can to make sure our students can return to school safely. From 8 March, we'll be taking the following protective measures:

- We'll ask that all staff and students continue to wear a face covering in classrooms, communal areas and corridors in line with the latest government guidance for schools (not including primary aged students)
- Students and staff will remain in site bubbles with limited movement and transition
- Visitors / agencies will be allowed on site through appointment only
- Regular handwashing and enhanced cleaning
- Recovery curriculum and emotional support and check ins for staff and students
- Our updated risk assessment is available to view on our websites

Year 11 and GCSE exams

- We have 12 weeks of school left until final grades have to be submitted. There are no physical exams however our staff will only be able to award grades based on the available evidence so please ensure attendance and engagement is high and allow our staff team the opportunity to make a difference to your son / daughters life.

Additional information

- Hot meals will be provided with time to clean between groups entering.
- Funding for FSM vouchers will stop from Monday 8th March 2021 as the meals will be provided on site.
- The technology we have worked hard to source and distribute can remain in the family home until further notice in case of a need for remote working if we see live cases.
- Please note that the calendared review days for March have been rescheduled and will be held virtually. Our staff team will be in touch shortly to arrange a date and time convenient for you within the week commencing 22nd March 2021. We will take this opportunity to assess how things are going and how we can support moving forward.

Additional support

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we'd like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, or if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch with your Head of Centre.

We'd also like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We'll continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

Warm regards,



Mr P Hutchinson
Executive Principal