



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I'm delighted to announce ALL students will return to school on Monday, March 8th at the usual time of 8:30am on site for an 8:40am start. We will do this as safely as possible and so the following systems have been put in place:

1. LFT testing on school site

I must insist on the testing of all students and staff for the safety of those in school and the wider community. My expectation is that all staff will be tested, Monday 8th March before school, and of course test negative if they are to remain on site. Students will remain in their form class, socially distanced from their tutor in one room until each student has been tested and produces a negative result. If your child tests positive, you will be informed immediately, asked to collect your child and take them to a testing centre for a PCR test to confirm the positive result.

2. Home testing with LFT

Once your child has done sufficient self-tests on school site and we are confident they know how to do it correctly we will issue them with home testing kits. I ask that you supervise your child taking the home test twice per week before school, at least three days apart. Instructions will be included with the kit. Rest assured your child will have been shown how to do the test and practised with expert guidance until they are able to do it on their own. We will continue to test those students on site who struggle with the test.

3. Children whose parents or carers refuse to consent for their child to be tested

These students must still attend school, but will have to remain socially distanced at 2 metres at all times while on the school site. Therefore, rather than be part of their 'year bubble' they will form an 'untested bubble', so as not to put other students and staff at any unnecessary risk. In line with DfE guidance these students will not be eligible for the home testing which will begin from 15th March.

4. Wearing masks

All students MUST wear masks at all times while in the school building, this now includes classrooms, unless they are eating and drinking in a designated area; can socially distance by 2 metres; or are medically exempt.

5. Travelling to and from school

Your child should NOT use public transport unless it is totally unavoidable, but rather walk or cycle to school. I can arrange for bike repairs and maintenance free of charge, please let the school know if you are interested in this service.

Equipment for first day:

- Full correct uniform
- PE kit is needed if students are timetabled for PE.
- Usual full set of **all** equipment is required.
- Please remember hand sanitiser and a mask.

Secondly, an update on the government's announcement on Thursday for this year's plan to award grades for years 11 and 13.

Grading GCSE, A-Level and vocational subjects (year 11 and 13)

Following the announcement by Ofqual on Thursday 25th February, students who were due to sit public examinations this year will now have their grades awarded by the school, known as Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs). These grades are firstly determined by subject teachers' professional judgement but guided by exam board grading criteria, they are then moderated, sometimes adjusted and subsequently submitted to the exam board by the school.

The school will follow Ofqual's guidance by using a broad range of evidence to achieve the fairest possible judgement, including: tests, mock exams, coursework and classwork. I will inform you of the dates for any formal tests we use set by exam boards, which are intended to inform the judgement of teachers, but it is all future work completed from this point forward by year 11 or 13 that may be used to inform a student's grade in a subject. Students need to be working as hard as possible to achieve their best possible grade. I will ensure the most rigorous quality assurance process is in place to guarantee grades are fair and represent each student's attainment. In addition, exam boards can randomly sample the evidence we use to award grades, investigate further where there is a cause for concern and change grades when deemed necessary. Please see the press release by Ofqual or the DfE for further information:

[DfE's press release](#)

[Ofqual's press release](#)

A-level results will be issued on Tuesday 10th August 2021 at 7:30am and GCSE & BTEC results issued on the 12th August 2021 at 10:00am, both from the school.

There is an appeals process for students who are unhappy with their grade. Students who wish to will still have the option of sitting public examinations for GCSE, A-levels and vocational subjects in the autumn term.

We're really looking forward to welcoming students back to their school and resuming face-to-face teaching, albeit in masks for the very short-term, but nonetheless a huge leap forward and we do not anticipate returning to remote learning on any scale in the near future.

I thank you for your continued support, it has been unwavering in these difficult circumstances. Could I finally ask the very few parents who still need to contact the school to give consent for testing to do so as a matter of urgency so that we can ensure the safety of all as we fully reopen school. You can use the school email, the form emailed to you, the website portal or simply call us.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Roberts
Headteacher