



26 February 2021

Dear parent/carer

As you are aware, the Government has confirmed that schools will re-open to all students from March 8th and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them back. As the staff need to prepare for this and ensure that their classrooms are ready to have full classes in again, **staff will set work on EduLink for all classes on Friday 5 March, and there will be no Teams lessons that day.** We thank you for your understanding with this.

For secondary schools, there are also some new testing requirements in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. On their return to school, students will be tested three times, three to five days apart. After that, they will be provided with home-testing kits so that they can test themselves twice a week. Staff will also be provided with home-testing kits so that they can test themselves twice a week.

The need to test students before they start moving around the site and attending normal lessons means that we have to stagger which students come back to school over a number of days. We need students who come into school to remain in one discrete group and room until their entire year group has been tested, and the testing of a year group takes quite a long time. The government guidance on this is:

“Secondary schools should offer pupils testing at an on-site Asymptomatic Testing Site and return of pupils can be phased during the first week to manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time.”

Year 7 students will return to school on Wednesday 10 March and should continue to access remote learning until that date. When they arrive at school they should go to their normal pre-school area and when the bell goes they must proceed straight to the room they would normally be in for period 1 that day. They will be based in that room for the whole of tutor time and period 1 and their normal period 1 teacher will teach them. They will be collected for testing during that lesson. At break time, when all the results for their year group are known, they will be able to go to their normal break time area and go to normal lessons from period 2 that day onwards. Any students for whom we have not received consent to conduct a test will, of course, not be tested.

For the rest of that first week, when students arrive at school they should go to their normal pre-school area, but when the bell goes they should proceed straight to the classroom that they would normally be in for period 1 that day. They will stay in that room for 2 hours (tutor time and period 1 time). This will allow time for the testing of whichever year group is being tested that day to happen and for all test results to be known before staff and students start moving around the site.

Students will be taken out of lessons on two further occasions during the course of the period Thursday 11 March – Friday 19 March to receive their second and third tests. We do not need to wait for results of 2nd and 3rd tests in the same way as we do the initial tests, so this process will not impact on lessons and movement around the school in the same way.

Please check your contact details on EduLink are correct so that we are able contact you easily if we need you to arrange for your child to be collected because of a positive test result.

When students return to school they will need to be in normal full uniform, including their lanyard which is essential for easy monitoring of the students being in the right areas at break and lunch times. We will, of course, return to all the routines we established last term to make the site as Covid



secure as we can: the one-way system, sanitising hands when entering and leaving the room every lesson, sanitising before entering the canteen or pit stop, specific areas each year group needs to be in - and stay in - at break time and lunch time, and specific times for each year group to go to their designated place for buying food.

Additionally, there is a new requirement for secondary students to wear a mask in class throughout the day. This means that all students (except the 10 students in the school who are medically exempt from this) must wear a face covering at all times throughout the school day, including on the bus to and from school. The only time they will be allowed to take their face covering off is at break or lunch time when they are outside and in their own year group's area, or if they are eating. If they are indoors (to go to the toilet, or because it is cold or raining) they must wear a face covering. They must wear a face covering throughout all lessons except those in which wearing a face covering would impact on their ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, such as PE or dance lessons.

We ask that you explain to your child the importance of complying with these rules to help the school stop the spread of the virus. We very much want to be able to keep all students in school and not have to send any home, and wearing masks all the time will help that. Many students will think that they don't need to wear a mask because they have no symptoms, but every student who has tested positive so far since the pandemic started has been asymptomatic. They may also feel that if they have just received a negative test result they do not have to comply with the rules, but they do because the result is only valid at that moment, and they could have picked up the virus immediately afterwards. The test is another layer in our protective measures, but does not eliminate the need for all our other measures.

Students who have been coming in to school as part of the vulnerable and key workers' children group will be able to continue to come into school as normal from Monday 8 March. They will follow their usual timetable, going to their normal classrooms (and their period 1 classroom for tutor time as well as period 1 for the first week). Their teachers will teach them alongside teaching the rest of the class remotely until the whole year group is back in school. These students have already been tested for Covid several times, and will be part of the on-going testing with their year group.

As always, if any member of your household has any Covid symptoms (a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste) please book a PCR test (you can use the link below) and isolate all members of your household until you know the result: [Coronavirus testing in Northamptonshire - Northamptonshire County Council](#)

Finally, if your child has been loaned any equipment from the school during the period of closure, we ask that they bring it back to school and hand it in to the pastoral office once their year group is able to move around the site following the results of the Covid tests for their year group being known.

Thank you for your continued support during this time and we look forward to seeing all the students again soon.

Yours faithfully

Mrs E Dormor
Headteacher