



25th February 2021

Phased return to school w/c 8th March

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are absolutely delighted to be welcoming our students back to school w/c 8th March. Whilst we are exceptionally keen to get all students into lessons and back into a routine as soon as possible we must ensure that the safety of our students and staff remains our number one priority in these challenging times. We have a thorough COVID-19 risk assessment which has been reviewed in light of the new guidance issued by the Government. More information regarding this will be shared with parents over the coming week.

As you will be aware the Prime Minister outlined that schools are required us to undertake asymptomatic testing for all students for COVID-19, on three occasions, using lateral flow tests on site when they return. At that point, once students are trained, they will then be required to test themselves twice a week at home. These tests will identify asymptomatic cases and help to reduce the risk of transmission within the school community.

To support the testing programme, we plan to phase the students back to school as follows for their first test:

Date	Year group	Students on school and public buses	Students who live locally and can walk to school (surnames begin A-L)	Students who live locally and can walk to school (surnames begin M-Z)
Monday 8th March	Year 13	Already tested twice w/c 1 st March		
	Year 12	8.45am	Between 10.00 to 11.15am	Between 11.15 to 12.30pm
	Year 11	8.45am	Between 10.00 to 11.15am	Between 11.15 to 12.30pm
Tuesday 9th March	Year 8	8.45am	Between 10.00 to 11.15am	Between 11.15 to 12.30pm
	Year 10	8.45am	Between 10.00 to 11.15am	Between 11.15 to 12.30pm
Wednesday 10th March	Year 7	8.45am	Between 10.00 to 11.15am	Between 11.15 to 12.30pm
	Year 9	8.45am	Between 10.00 to 11.15am	Between 11.15 to 12.30pm

For a school of our size, with over 1500 students, the logistics of testing all students once on return (prior to them accessing lessons) and on a further two occasions is a significant logistical challenge. Therefore, to help us in this return we will be phasing students back over the first three days to ensure we can test all students, who have consented, in a planned and safe manner before they go into classrooms.

We have arranged a timetable for testing for all students across all year groups. We have scheduled times for groups of students to come onto school site to help us manage the flow of students so we can keep students socially distanced until they have been tested.

1. **From 8.45am on the allocated day-** Those students who come to **school via public or school transport will attend school** on their allocated first day at the usual time and be tested on arrival. For the first test students will have to wait, socially distanced, in the sports hall for 30 minutes until the test results have been processed.
2. **Between 10.00 and 11.15am-** we will welcome students whose **surnames begin A-L who live locally to start to arrive at school** on their allocated first day. They can arrive between 10.00am and 11.15am. By giving this flexibility over this time period this should mean students are not queueing for long to be tested and we can manage social distancing more effectively. For the first test students will have to wait, socially distanced, in the sports hall for 30 minutes until the test results have been processed.
3. **Between 11.15am and 12.30pm** we will welcome students whose **surnames begin M-Z who live locally to start to arrive at school** on their allocated first day. They can arrive between 11.15am and 12.30pm. By giving this flexibility over this time period this should mean students are not queueing for long to be tested and we can manage social distancing more effectively. For the first test students will have to wait, socially distanced, in the sports hall for 30 minutes until the test results have been processed.

We do not have the capacity to test all students on arrival on one day and consequently we have to phase this across three days, in line with the following guidance from DfE *'Secondary schools should offer pupils testing at an on-site ATS from 8 March. Testing 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. You should offer 3 tests, 3 to 5 days apart.'*

Your child will then be tested on two further occasions 3-5 days apart over the course of the first two weeks. They will be taken out of lessons for the second and third test and will return before the result has been confirmed.

All students will have an assembly from myself w/c 1st March to outline the testing process and how the attendance of various year groups will be phased across the week. The aim of this assembly is to alleviate any anxieties they may have regarding the testing process.

Please note if you require keyworker provision prior to the start date for your child from w/c 8th March communication regarding this will be sent out on Monday 1st March.

Later this week you will receive a letter which gives detail on what the testing involves as well as a consent form via Parentmail regarding the lateral flow testing. This consent form will need to be completed prior to return to give us permission for your child to undertake lateral flow testing on site. This is an important measure in keeping our school community as safe as possible and we thank you for your support in advance.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oyston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'O'.

Mrs L. Oyston

Head of School