

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to my email earlier in the week, I am now able to provide you with some further information regarding the return to school for all pupils from 8th March 2021.

You will be aware that the Department for Education (DfE) are asking all secondary schools and colleges to facilitate mass testing of pupils and staff. The expectation is that pupils are tested 3 times at school (3 – 5 days apart) within 2 weeks of their return in order to familiarise them with the testing process. Whilst pupils will be self-administering the tests, there will be guidance and supervision from staff. Following these tests, pupils will be issued with home testing kits to use twice a week, and further details about the process and how to register results will be provided in due course.

In the interests of protecting the school and the wider community, schools have been given discretion to phase the return of pupils. This will mean that pupils will be invited to come into school at a designated time for their first test, and they leave the school site immediately afterwards to return home. Thereafter, providing they return a negative result, their face-to-face lessons will resume the following day in school. You will be contacted at the earliest opportunity if your child tests positive, and will receive notification of a negative result later in the day. In the event of a positive test result, your child and family will need to comply with self-isolation requirements.

You will be sent a further email next week detailing the day and time-slot of your child's first test. It is very important that your child attends promptly at their allotted time to minimise the number of people in school and their contact with others. They should come to school in full school uniform. These appointments will fall within the following schedule: (you will note that we are asking our Sixth Form students to come into school on Friday 5th March and their face-to-face lessons will resume on Monday 8th March):

	First Test	Mandatory Return to School Date (Assuming negative result)
Friday 5 th March	Year 12 and 13	Monday 8 th March
Monday 8 th March AM	Year 11	Tuesday 9 th March
Monday 8 th March PM	Year 10	Tuesday 9 th March
Tuesday 9 th March AM	Year 7	Wednesday 10 th March
Tuesday 9 th March PM	Year 9	Wednesday 10 th March
Wednesday 10 th March AM	Year 8	Thursday 11 th March

Remote learning will continue for any year group not in school until Wednesday 10th March. As teachers will be delivering face-to-face lessons, there is likely to be more remote learning set via Show My Homework for these few days until everyone is back in school. After the return to compulsory attendance, there will be no further remote learning, although arrangements will, of course, be made for those pupils who have to self-isolate due to COVID-19.

Whilst this testing programme is voluntary, we do however strongly encourage participation in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and keep our community safe. If you have not already done so, please do return the Consent Form (copy attached) to pupilservices@sweynepark.com as soon as possible. Pupils and students over the age of 16 can give permission themselves. Your child will not be tested unless we have received the completed documentation. If your child has any special circumstances or needs relating to the testing process, please contact us at admin@sweynepark.com.

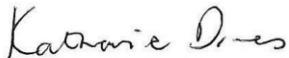
In the event that your child has tested positive for COVID-19 with the last 90 days, please let us know as they will not be required to take part in the testing programme. As has always been the case, your child should not attend school if they have COVID-19 related symptoms, and in such a case, you should arrange for them to be tested immediately, and the result communicated to us as soon as possible.

If you do not give consent for your child to be tested, please note that they should return to school on the date set out above, along with their year group. For those pupils who have been attending school throughout this closure period as children of keyworkers, the provision will remain in place until the day normal lessons resume for their year group. Please continue to notify Mr Bradley of any change in needs.

I will write to you again next week with additional information about the return to school.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards



Katharine Dines
Headteacher



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