

'Providing the tools for mastery'

2nd March 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Re: Return to normal school hours

We are delighted to welcome all students back to The Skills Hub from Monday 8th March. Although we have remained open, we will be returning to our normal timetable and school attendance will be mandatory for all children.

I would like to reassure you that the safety of our school communities remains at the forefront of all our decisions. Many of the measures put into place in our school before Christmas will continue and relevant adjustments will be made to our school risk assessments in line with the latest Government advice.

When school reopens, we will focus on reconnecting the children with our expectations, values and learning behaviours as well as reviewing their learning so that teachers know how they can best support all the children moving forward. As always, we will focus on mental and physical wellbeing and social connections, whilst continuing to have high academic expectations for all children.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some key points from the government's latest guidance along with some of our safety measures:

Lateral Flow Tests

To ensure that we are as safe as possible, we expect each student to be tested in school but in order to do this, a consent form is needed. We would like every student to be tested on their return and then at intervals to try to keep everyone in our school community safe. If we are to protect each other and our community, every student will need to be tested.

During the week beginning 8th March, students will be invited between 9am – 10.30am to complete a lateral flow test. The school is now very experienced in delivering and processing these. Although each test takes a relatively short amount of time, the processing and administration is comprehensive. It will take about 20-30 minutes for students attending for their test. If they test negative, they will be able to remain in school, however if their tests read positive, they will need to be collected immediately by a parent/carer. Re-tests will then take place within a 3–5-day window on two further occasions in school before home test kits are provided for students to complete twice weekly at home.

Please can you support the school and discuss the importance of testing with your child. We have been doing testing successfully since January in school and have an official testing site (consent form included). Staff have been fully trained on how to use lateral flow tests and results are provided quickly

All students must be in full school uniform and follow the rules to ensure that all students are as safe as possible. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned more often than usual or by different methods.

Face Coverings

Staff and adult visitors in school, where social distancing between adults is not possible, should wear face coverings (masks).

Students are required to wear face coverings whilst inside the building and on school transport. Please ensure that you supply your child with plenty of face coverings so that they always have one. Any child, who is exempt, must bring medical evidence for my attention. Students not wearing a face covering are most at risk and put others at greater risk.

Before entering the school, students will have their temperature taken and will be expected to immediately sanitise or wash their hands.

Washing Hands

Staff, students and visitors in school are encouraged to wash their hands more regularly.

For students:

- ❖ when they arrive at the school
- ❖ when they return from breaks
- ❖ when they change rooms
- ❖ before and after eating

Reminder - What to do if you Have Symptoms of Covid-19 students, staff and other adults must not come into the school if:

- ❖ they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms:
 - a high temperature
 - a new continuous cough
 - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- ❖ a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.
- ❖ they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- ❖ they have had a positive test result

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- ❖ the start of their symptoms
- ❖ the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

Thank you once again for all your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Chambers
Principal