

RE: Full opening arrangements from 8 March

Dear Parents / Carer

As you will likely be aware, the Prime Minister has announced that all school-age pupils will return to full-time on-site provision from 8 March. Normal school times will resume. We would like to take this opportunity to outline our arrangements for full opening prior to this date.

All pupils will be expected to return during the week commencing 8 March, but will be offered rapid-result lateral flow device (LFD) tests to check for asymptomatic cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). **Pupils who are able to self administer the test** will be offered three on-site LFD tests, three- to- five days apart when they initially return from 8 March, and will be provided with home tests thereafter for twice weekly asymptomatic testing. Testing is not mandatory, but is strongly recommended by the government. Consent will need to be obtained prior to these tests being carried out. Pupils who are following public health advice should remain at home, e.g. if they are required to self-isolate or shield.

Pupils will be offered three tests, three- to- five days apart, from 8 March.

Home testing

Following three on-site LFD tests upon the initial return to school, pupils will be offered home testing kits to conduct LFD tests twice per week. If your child takes part in these tests, results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace, either online or by telephone, and should be shared with the school.

Pupils aged 12 to 17 should self-test and report their results under the supervision of an adult; pupils aged 11 should have their tests conducted by an adult.

If your child tests negative in the LFD tests, they can continue to attend school, unless they start to display symptoms of coronavirus.

If your child receives a positive LFD test result, they should begin to self-isolate immediately, and book a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test which can be done at an NHS testing site, or via a home PCR test. In rare circumstances where your child cannot obtain a PCR test from a testing site, the school has a small supply. Please get in touch with the school office if you think you cannot access a testing site or order a home testing kit.

We appreciate all of your efforts made to conduct these tests, and thank you for your ongoing support in helping to create a safer school environment for our community.

Attendance



From 8 March, attendance is mandatory for all pupils, and the usual rules for attendance apply, e.g. sanctions could be issued in the case of non-attendance.

If your child is following public health advice, e.g. they are shielding or have coronavirus, you will not be penalised for any non-attendance. Pupils not attending for these reasons will continue to receive remote education, where appropriate.

If your child is required to attend the school site but you are anxious or concerned, please get in touch with us on 0161 766 1597 and we can discuss your worries in more detail and provide any reassurance you need.

Protective measures

We want to reassure you that the school has implemented a number of protective measures to keep your child safe upon their return to the school site. We have updated our risk assessment to reflect any changes in circumstances pertaining to the full return of pupils, and will communicate any future changes to you as and when we make them. A copy of which is on our website.

In order to assist us in minimising risk of infection, please ensure your child is only bringing essential items to the school site each day. We would urge all pupils not to bring personal items or a bag into school. Bags for personal care items are allowed.

Our Infection Control Policy and Social Distancing Policy will continue to be followed at all times.

Where possible, please ensure pupils avoid public transport as a means of travelling to and from the school site.

Face coverings

As was the case prior to the third national lockdown commencing in January 2021, pupils in Year 7 and above should wear a face covering when moving around the school premises, e.g. in corridors where social distancing cannot be easily maintained. The government also now recommends that **pupils and staff wear face coverings in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained**. Pupils exempt from wearing face coverings will not be required to wear one.



Please ensure your child has access to a face covering where they are not exempt from wearing one. The school will maintain a supply of face coverings in the case that pupils cannot access a face covering, their face covering becomes soiled or damp, or they forget to bring one to school.

Thank you for your continued support during this tough time. We appreciate your efforts, and we look forward to welcoming back all of our pupils.

If you have any queries, or would like to speak to someone, please get in touch with the school office on 0161 766 1597.

Yours sincerely



Orienne Langley Sadler
Headteacher

