

## Full Reopening – Information for your child’s return to school for face to face teaching.

### Staggered Return

Students will return throughout the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March so that we are able to Covid test students prior to their return to the classroom in a safe manner.

Monday	Year 11
Tuesday	Year 10
Wednesday	Year 7
Thursday am	Year 8
Friday am	Year 9

You will receive a notification in the next 48 hours informing you of the time at which your child should arrive at school. It is important that your child only arrives at this time as we have a set schedule of Covid testing throughout each day so that our testing centre does not get overwhelmed and so we can ensure full social distancing between students until they receive their test result.

### Testing

Thank you for the vast majority of parents who have already consented for their child to be tested as this will help us to reduce the risk of both transmission in school and in the community. Students and staff will have been tested 3 times by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. One reason for doing 3 tests in school is so that students are familiar with the process prior to the home testing which will commence 3-5 days following their last test in school. More details of home testing will be shared in the next week or so.

The same protocols around close contacts apply for any student or member of staff who tests positive whether in school or at a testing centre.

### The School Day

The school continues to operate in bubbles and as such the staggered start and end to the day remains in place. Please ensure you child arrives at the correct time.

	Start Time	Finish Time
Year 7	08.50	15.05
Year 8	08.40	15.00
Year 9	08.40	14.50
Year 10	08.40	15.00
Year 11	08.30	14.55

We are conscious of the challenges that students will face when coming back into school and are therefore focusing very much on re-engagement with school, re-building resilience and support in the first few weeks. Lessons will continue as normal, but there will be added emphasis on the basics and expectations to aid the transition back into school. Our primary aim is to support our students with their reintegration to our community in an orderly, safe and compassionate manner.

### Year 11 Assessed Grades

Many students will be feeling anxious about the system being used for assessed grades this summer instead of exams. We are putting together an information pack for students and parents, which will explain what evidence we are using as well as how we are using it; this should be ready by the time they return next week. I have shared an assembly with students today and the most important message is that they should continue to engage and complete any outstanding assessments that were set just before half term to the best of their ability, prior to their return to school.

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### Catch Up

There has been an awful lot of unhelpful media coverage regarding catch up and the lost chances of this generation of children. We do have an extensive recovery programme planned and this will commence immediately and build upon the interventions that were in place for Year 11 last term.

### Health and Wellbeing

Extra-curricular clubs will be up and running as soon as we return, but unfortunately the Academies will be delayed until after Easter and will only start up then if it is safe to do so. We will also have staff available after school every day for students who are worried about missed learning or are struggling with homework.

In the last week of term, we will be running a day of activities for KS3 as part of their return from lockdown programme. This will very much focus on physical activity and community.

After Easter we will also be altering our school day every Wednesday for 6 weeks by making an additional period to enable us to run a wellbeing and social recovery programme in recognition of the challenges that many young people have faced. The start and end of the day will be the same as normal.

Our mentors and other key workers will be providing both individual and group support, building upon the great work they have been doing throughout lockdown. In addition to this we do have access to a range of external agencies who support those students who are finding things particularly difficult. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year or Mrs Blair if you have any concerns or are worried about anything.

### Uniform

Students are expected to be in full uniform when they return or their PE kit on those days they have PE. Please can I remind you that hoodies and non-John Spence tracksuit bottoms are not acceptable and should not be worn to school. I have attached the [uniform standards](#) as a reminder of our expectations.

We do recognise that the financial cost of the last year may mean that providing uniform is difficult for some parents and we can help with this in two ways. Firstly, parents of students in receipt of free school meals will receive a £20 voucher for our uniform supplier and a further £25 for a supermarket of your choice to buy additional uniform such as shirts or shoes. This scheme is being operated by the Local Authority and we are hoping for more details this week.

Secondly, as a school we are also able to support families who are struggling who are not in receipt of free school meals so please do get in touch if uniform is a problem for your child. We do want to maintain our uniform standards, but will work with you all to achieve this. Please also remember our policy on piercings; only one pair of stud earrings are allowed and no nose piercings.

Finally, I would like to say thank you for the great job you have all done supporting your children over this lockdown – home learning is not easy, but I know that you will have done your best to help keep your children motivated and engaged. We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back next week.

Jonathan Heath  
Headteacher  
02.03.21