



Ref: ReOpeningMarch21Sec/CTY/hll

25th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

School Re-Opening: Monday 8th March 2021

As you will be aware, the Government has confirmed that all students will return to school on Monday 8th March. As a school we are very much looking forward to welcoming back all our students following the latest lockdown. Again, I would like to thank you for your support and co-operation to ensure that our students have continued to access their learning at home.

Please be assured that the school is a safe environment and we have continued with all of our Covid-19 protocol and followed our robust risk assessments. During the latest lockdown, we have had over 250 students accessing school, which is well above the national average for this period. During the half term we had no need to send any 'bubbles' home to isolate which supports that we are effective in keeping everyone safe.

The arrangements that were in place prior to the Christmas break will continue, such as staggered start and finish times, staggered breaks and lunches etc. Ms Kenneway and Miss McPartland will write to you later this week with phase specific details on the full re-opening of school.

There are several specific points about the full return to school that I wanted to set out in this letter, **of which many apply to the Secondary phase students and families only**, however, I felt it important that, as we are an 'all through' school, you all understand the measures in place.

Testing – Secondary Only

- All Secondary students will be tested for Covid-19 using 'lateral flow tests', firstly at school and then at home. We therefore urge that if you have not signed up yet to consent for your child to be tested that you do so by Friday 26th February 2021. Information has been shared on Social Media.
- In order for this testing in school to take place safely, we will **stagger the return for Secondary students only** during the first week.
- Whilst it is not compulsory to take these tests, the Government's health advice is that effective testing helps to stop the virus spreading and will mean that schools are as safe as possible. Therefore, I would strongly encourage you to provide consent.
- The below points set out some of the information;
 - Students who we have consent for will be tested by trained staff, three times at school in the first two weeks back.
 - After the first two weeks back at school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home.
 - Parents and carers will be required to report results to schools to record. We will confirm how this system will operate in due course.
 - Students who develop Covid-19 symptoms should self-isolate immediately according to Government guidelines.

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- If a student tests positive for Covid-19, they must not attend school for at least 10 days from the day their symptoms started (or the date of their positive test if they were not showing symptoms).
- The school will retain a small testing site for those unable to test at home, while all our staff will also be given twice weekly home tests.

As mentioned, trained staff will supervise the first three tests taken at school. Lateral flow tests are quick and easy to administer, using a swab of your nose and throat. This has been regular practice with our key worker and vulnerable students who have been on site since the beginning of January. Results take around 40 minutes from testing and these will be shared with parents or legal guardians, in all instances, except if the child is over 16 then we will inform them too.

Masks – Secondary Only

- The Government has recommended the use of face masks indoors – **including in classrooms**. Windows and doors will remain open for full ventilation. This policy will be reviewed over the Easter Holidays so will be in place until at least the end of this term, which finishes on Thursday 1st April 2021. This applies to students, staff and visitors (including parents), unless they are exempt from wearing one and have indicated the reasons why they are exempt.
- I would like to ask for your support to ensure that your child(ren) have a suitable number of face masks for the return to school from Monday 8th March 2021.

Clubs and Extra-Curricular Activities – Primary and Secondary

- From Monday 15th March 2021, after-school clubs can resume; this includes sports and activity clubs. These will follow the same Covid secure processes we have in place and, once we have a timetable for activities, this will be shared with you and communicated to the students.

The recent announcement indicates we are slowly returning to normal. However, I want to reiterate and remind you of a few key points below;

- We advise that wherever possible use personal vehicles, walk and cycle to school rather than use public transport.
- All students must be well and not display any symptoms associated with Covid-19.
- Only one family member should drop off and pick up and face masks should be worn on the Plaza.
- You should not gather at the gates and ensure you follow all the guidance on social distancing.
- You should not come into school unless absolutely necessary; if you need to speak to a member of staff, you must follow all the appropriate guidance.

As stated above, Ms Kenneway and Miss McPartland will write to you setting out further phase specific information. Once again, thank you for your continued support and please ensure you check our website and social media for on-going updates.

Yours faithfully



Mr Critchley
Principal

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