



Ref: ReOpeningMarchmoreinfo/MPT/hll

Dear Parents and Carers

## Re-Opening Information for March 2021 - Secondary

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I would like to provide you with information regarding the re-opening of the school, following the Government announcement on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. In order for schools to open, following the latest lockdown, the Government are strongly advising that all Secondary students complete a Lateral Flow Test. Asymptomatic testing is an important tool for helping break the chains of transmission of the virus. It is advised that students need to have a negative test result before returning to school and then a further two tests on school site before the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. After this date, students will be given two tests to complete at home.

In order to facilitate the large number of students that need to be tested, we will have a phased return to school for Secondary students. On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March, Year 10 & 11 students will come to school at their allotted time for a Lateral Flow Test and then will need to go straight home following this and continue to work from home.

### Testing and Important Dates

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, Years 7, 8 and 9 will come to school at their allotted time for a Lateral Flow Test and then will need to go straight home following this and continue to work from home.

Lateral Flow Testing will then be repeated on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. **All students will then return to school on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

Students should attend school for their initial Lateral Flow Test at the following times:

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

9:00am	11WLM & 11MNY
9:40am	11RDD & 11MEY
10:20am	11FRL
11:00am	10CRZ & 10PAI
12:10pm	10COP & 10MCG
12:50pm	10MCN

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

9:00am	9WNG & 9FOS
9:40am	9OCA & 9CLN
10:20am	8OGN & 8ALN
11:00am	8CLR & 8KNI
12:10pm	8LIG
12:50pm	7ELT & 7GRC
1:30pm	7RLG & 7DUN

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## Travelling to and from school

We strongly advise that you should bring and collect your child for their Lateral Flow Tests, to avoid students mixing in groups whilst travelling to and from school. However, if this is not possible please can you ensure your child(ren) are aware they should socially distance from others as they make their way to and from school.

When students arrive at the testing centre they will need to ensure they have a face covering.

**If you have not completed the Microsoft Form to consent to your child(ren) being tested then they should not attend school until Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at the normal time. We are unable to test students unless we have received consent.**

## Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. This means, from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- A parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school, where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absences
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

## Students who are shielding or self-isolating

The majority of students will be able to return to school. You should note however that:

- a small number of students will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (Covid-19)
- clinically extremely vulnerable students are not expected to attend school and will continue to access lessons remotely. **Please contact school by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March if this applies to your child.** School will also need a copy of the letter sent out by Public Health.
- find more information on shielding at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

## Public health advice to minimise Coronavirus (Covid-19) risks

In order to minimise the risk of transmission, the Government are advising that all Secondary aged students wear a face covering in school on corridors and in lessons. Students are not expected to wear face coverings when eating or drinking in the canteen and when outside. Students should bring their own face covering with them to school every day. It is advised that students bring spare face coverings in case these get wet or soiled. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering please can you contact the Pastoral team in school or email [pastoral@thegrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:pastoral@thegrangeacademy.co.uk) to discuss this matter further. Students who are exempt from wearing a face covering will be expected to wear a school lanyard so that they are easily identifiable.

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### The Grange Academy

Latham Avenue, Runcom WA7 5DX  
Mr I Critchley - Principal BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

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Email: [info@thegrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@thegrangeacademy.co.uk)

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The same year group bubbles will apply when we open the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March as we had in place in September. The staggered start times will also still be in place.

Year Group	Start Time	Entrance	Break	Lunch	Finish Time	Exit Point
7	8.20am (Form)	Main Doors	9.50-10.05	12.35 - 1.05	2.25pm	Main Doors
8	8.20am (Form)	Side Doors by Stairs	9.50-10.05	12.35 - 1.05	2.25pm	Side Doors
9	8.30am (Form)	Side Doors by Stairs	10.20 - 10.35	12.05 - 12.35	2.35pm	Main Doors
10	8.30am (Form)	Main Doors	10.50-11.05	1.05 - 1.35	2.35pm	Side Doors
11	8.40am (Lines)	Top of Car Park	10.50-11.05	1.05 - 1.35	2.40pm	Top of Car Park

### Drop off / Pick Up, Use of the Car Park & Public Transport

As you can see from the timings of the day, we have staggered these to ensure we do not have lots of people arriving at a similar time. If you are driving to school please ensure you park in one of the marked bays. If you need to escort your children onto the Plaza, parents are expected to wear a face covering. If students are using public transport, please ensure you and your child are fully aware of the guidance for the use of local buses. The recommendations on transport to and from school allude to reducing any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport where possible (for example, by walking or cycling to school).

### Siblings

If you have children in different Year Groups, expected to attend, but have different start and finish times please can you drop them off for the earlier start time and the older sibling can go to their classroom/area.

In terms of picking up you can access the Plaza but please do not congregate together or enter the foyer. A face covering must be worn at all times. Siblings that pick up younger brothers and sisters from the Primary phase will be able to collect their siblings at 2.40pm. They must then leave the school site.

### Uniform & Mobile Phones

Students **WILL** be expected to wear full school uniform and be fully equipped for learning. If your child has items of uniform missing, please endeavour to order from online shops or from local supermarkets. Boydells are accepting online orders for uniform, as are Wynsors for shoes. School ties are available from the Finance Office, so if you require one of these they are priced at £8. Please ensure your child returns to school in full school uniform. You can contact [pastoral@thegrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:pastoral@thegrangeacademy.co.uk) should this be an issue.

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Mobile phones, should they be brought into school, will be collected by your child's Progress Tutor and safely stored in a box for the rest of the day. These can be collected at the end of the day from your child's exit point.

### **Essential Measures**

Below are a list of essential measures we will adhere to in order to reduce the risk of transmission;

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home – please ensure your child does not attend if they are showing any of the symptoms.
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene – this will be encouraged regularly, as it is now, and we will increase the signage as a reminder to take these steps.
- enhanced cleaning arrangements – this has been carefully considered and staggering breaks, lunches and the use of specialist rooms will allow for this.
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace – we will engage fully in advice and guidance from Public Health and the NHS Test and Trace team.
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination, so far as is reasonably practicable – the steps I have mentioned will reduce the risk of transmission.

### **Lunch, Break Time & Food and Drink**

Those students entitled to a Free School Meal will receive this at lunch time as normal. Those families that usually pay will ideally pay online (SCOPAY) as this will mean students do not touch the biometric machines.

You may wish to send your child(ren) with their own packed lunch. Please advise them that this should not be shared with anyone. It is also advisable that children bring in their own drinks bottle (clearly labelled and filled). Please be reminded that fizzy or energy drinks are not allowed.

### **Support for students with SEND**

We will work with families and students to provide the best possible support for students with SEND and make reasonable adjustment as necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff. Should any parents and carers wish to discuss this in detail, please speak to your child's keyworker in the first instance.

### **Cleaning Considerations & Movement around the site**

We have worked very closely with our maintenance provider to ensure regular cleaning has and will take place as it has done during lockdown. We will ensure there is enough tissues, hand sanitiser, disinfectant and paper towels and bins in every classroom to keep everyone safe.

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## **Behaviour**

There continues to be amendments and an addendum to the current Behaviour for Learning Policy, which can be found on our website. The guiding principles are, as usual, our REPS theme; where we expect students to be respectful, demonstrate excellence, persevere and be safe. Nevermore have these principles been more important. It is critical students co-operate with staff and follow instructions for the safety and well-being of everyone. Any behaviour that might put others in danger will not be tolerated and appropriate sanctions put in place.

## **First Aid & Medication**

Students that require First Aid will still be able to access this and additional PPE will be provided to the designated first aiders. Students that need medication will still be able to collect this from Student Services.

**Please do not send your child(ren) into school if they feel unwell, are showing any one of the Covid-19 symptoms or require any general first aid.**

## **Pastoral Support for Well-Being and Mental Health**

We are very aware that the Coronavirus outbreak may have caused significant mental health or wellbeing difficulties for some children. It is important to recognise that while 'getting back to normal' is important and will be reassuring for many, we will consider how to support students back into school.

We know some children may also have experienced bereavements in their immediate family or wider circle of friends or family, or had increased/new caring responsibilities. All children will have missed the routine of school, seeing their friends, and being supported by their teachers and other adults in the school. Therefore, we will provide opportunities for children to talk about their experiences of the past few weeks. Opportunities for conversations with adults, some refocused lessons on relevant topics, for example, mental wellbeing or staying safe, pastoral activities, such as positive opportunities to renew and develop friendships and peer groups and other enriching developmental activities.

## **Home & Remote Learning Plans**

Home Learning and Remote Learning plans will still be in place should students be required to self-isolate. As a school we loaned a number of devices to students so that they could continue with online learning. These devices need to be returned to school so that they can be redeployed should we have specific groups of students that need to self-isolate and work from home.

As always, we will continue to use our social media and website to communicate any updates with you. These are listed below.

**Website:** [www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk](http://www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk)

**YouTube:** [grangeacademyruncorn](https://www.youtube.com/grangeacademyruncorn)

**Twitter:** [@Grange\\_School](https://twitter.com/Grange_School)

**Instagram:** [@thegrangeacademy](https://www.instagram.com/thegrangeacademy)

**Facebook:** [@grangeacademy](https://www.facebook.com/grangeacademy)

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Finally, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Yours faithfully



Miss L McPartland  
Associate Principal

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