

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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Update Letter - 24th February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope that you are all well. Following Boris Johnson's announcement of the Road Map to recovery, we are delighted that we will be able to welcome all students back to school from the 8th March – we are looking forward to having everyone back on site and we are grateful for all your hard work and support during this challenging time – particularly all of those families who have been doing home-learning.

Here are our initial plans for a full return to school for students.

KS2 – Years 5 and 6

- Students in Years 5 and 6 will return to school from Monday 8th March. There is no testing requirement for KS2 students.

KS3 – Years 7 and 8

Students in Years 7 and 8 will have a slightly staggered return as we are required to offer on-site Asymptomatic Testing before students return. We are required to offer three on-site tests (3 to 5 days apart). Testing is voluntary; however, we (and the DfE) would encourage everyone to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly. As you can appreciate, testing 360 students three times in such a short timescale is a significant logistical challenge.

We will offer tests to Year 7 students during Monday 8th March and to Year 8 students during Tuesday 9th March. Students will only come into school for their test and will then return home – full arrangements for the timing of these tests will follow once we have ascertained the demand and numbers involved. After the first negative result, students will be able to return to school the following day. This phased return will also be applied to students who do not take up the offer of a test. So, subsequent to their first negative test result:

- Students in Year 7 will return to school from Tuesday 9th March.
- Students in Year 8 will return from Wednesday 10th March.

All on-site tests require parental consent. I would be grateful, therefore, if parents/carers of Year 7 and 8 students could let us know on or before Monday, 1st March (4.00pm), whether you would like to take up the offer of testing by completing a consent form; the easiest way to do this is using the online form available through WEDUC (it is best done on a PC). Click on the 'Forms' option and on the left-hand side, you will see 'Consent for COVID-19 testing). A WORD document is also attached along with further details of the test. The WORD document can be emailed to us at school via the dedicated email address: lateraltesting@holywellschool.co.uk. NB Parents of Critical Worker students who have already completed consent forms do not need to re-do the form.



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss A Stewart

Assistant Headteacher: Mrs H Donnellan – Designated Safeguarding Lead / SENDCo: Mrs J Davies

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The second and third 'on-site' tests will be done in school time (probably Thursday/Friday and the following Monday/Tuesday). There will be a rota system through the day and students will return to their classes once they have been tested.

Following this, parents of Year 7 and 8 students will be supplied with lateral flow test home testing kits so that students can continue with twice weekly tests at home. Further details will be issued once students have completed the on-site tests.

General Arrangements

All previous protocols and practices from our September return will continue (an updated full plan and risk assessment will be available soon). This includes:

- social distancing from staff
- seating in rows facing forward
- one-way system
- increased hygiene regime (eg. regular hand-sanitising)
- normal uniform
- PE Kit on PE Days
- no large group meetings (ie. there will continue to be online/recorded assemblies)
- kitchen will be fully open for hot and cold lunches

Face coverings: In addition, as required by the DfE, all students will be required to wear face coverings at all times (apart from PE and at break and lunchtimes). This will also now include during lessons. Although technically only for KS3, as an added precaution, we will expect all students to follow this guidance (unless students are medically exempt). Students will be required to have a supply of their own face coverings and will be responsible for the correct use of them. We will have a small supply of masks for emergency situations, however, we recommend that all students have their own re-usable masks.

Attendance: All students are expected to attend. If students are self-isolating, we will continue to provide home-learning as detailed in our Remote Learning and Contingency Plan (available on the school website – in both the Policies section and the Coronavirus section). NB. Home learning will only be available for students who are self-isolating as the Government's expectation is that all students must attend and we are obliged to follow normal procedures for non-attendance.

Groupings: Consistent groupings will continue in all subjects apart from English and Maths where there will be some slight adjustments to groupings to allow for additional support and differentiation.

Curriculum: We will be continuing with our usual curriculum provision and we hope that students will enjoy being back in the classroom and learning. There will still be some restrictions on what we can do in some subjects, however staff are working hard to minimise the impact of these restrictions.

First Day: We will take some time on the first day that students are in school to go through all of our routines and practices and there will be an opportunity for students to re-engage with other students in their class. Please re-assure students that everything will be as 'normal' as possible and that if there are any concerns, students can talk to any member of staff – usually, this will be the form tutor. Likewise, if you as parents/carers have any concerns, please do contact us via the school office.

Thank you again for all your support, patience and flexibility.

Stay safe.



Mr MG Simpson

