

28th February 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

It is with considerable excitement that we prepare for the return of students from March 8th – the school just isn't the same place without them! I am equally confident that you as parents and carers are keen for them to return too. However, we know this will present some challenges to students, staff and families. We have become so used to learning remotely and remaining in our homes, and many are also uncertain and anxious about what the future will bring, but I am very confident that school return will be safe, successful and welcomed by all – that is certainly what we have been preparing for.

As I mentioned in my letter last week, a key part of school return is the lateral flow tests that we will be carrying out for staff and students. This is part of a developing programme by the government which will lead to the families of all secondary school students receiving their own testing kits so they are able to conduct their own tests. We anticipate having these testing kits delivered to the school for the week beginning 8th March. In the meantime, we will be inviting students whose families have given consent to take the test to come into school to have a test and also, importantly, to be shown what is involved in carrying out the tests properly and safely.

Families of students involved in these tests will receive a text message the day before, giving them a precise time when they should attend. We anticipate that the testing process will take no longer than 10 minutes in school, and we will be conducting them with groups of between 8 and 10 students. It is important that students maintain social distancing and covid-safe practices when they come into school for the tests, and I attach here the guidelines for this that they will need to follow:

The schedule is as follows:

- Monday 1st March : Students from Year 11 and Year 10
- Tuesday 2nd March: Students from Year 10, 8 and Sixth Form
- Wednesday 3rd March: Students from Years 7 and 8
- Thursday 4th March: Students from Years 8 and 9

Please ensure that your child only comes in at their allocated time, and returns home straight away after the test has been completed. They will be given instructions for how to register for their results at home – which will be used not just for the three tests that will be conducted in school, but also the way families will need to report their results to the NHS when they are carrying out the test themselves using the home testing kits.

As mentioned in letters from Mr Hartley and Ms Pinnick earlier this week, we will be running information webinars for families of students in Year 11 (on Monday 1st March at 7:00pm) and Year 13 (on Wednesdays 3rd March at 7pm), and further details of these will be circulated shortly, as will information for Year 7 parents for booking appointments for the virtual parents' consultation evening on March 16th

Highgate Wood School Student Council supports individual action to address the issues of Climate Change and promotes the United Nations top 10 recommendations.



We will also, shortly, be circulating more information about school return from 8th March, and the procedures we will have in place to help ensure a safe and happy return to face to face teaching. In order to help families plan the days ahead I outline below some of the key events:

From Monday 8th March.

We will return to our normal “staggered” timetable for all students, whether still learning remotely or returning to face-to-face lessons.

- **Monday 8th March:**
Late start. Period 1 and 2 cancelled.
Year 11 and Post 16 students will be invited back to school for face-to-face lessons from Period 3
Years 7 to 10 remote live lessons from Period 3
- **Tuesday 9th March:**
Year 10 students return to face to face lessons (with Year 11 and Post 16)
Years 7, 8 and 9: Remote live lessons
- **Wednesday 10th March:**
Year 7 and 8 students return to face to face lessons (with Years 10, 11 and Post 16)
Year 9: Remote live lessons
- **Thursday 11th March**
Year 9 students return to face to face lessons (with all other year groups) – All students in school for a normal school day
- **Friday 12th March**
All students in school for a normal school day

As we enter our last week of school lock down, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and for your good wishes and thanks to my staff. I would also like to give my particular thanks to the PSA for staging the Livin La Covida Loca online fundraiser on Friday. It was an excellent evening, provided a fitting celebration to the approaching end of a difficult time for all.

With thanks for your continued support.

Regards



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher