

01 March 2021

RE: Return to School from March 8th

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are well.

We have been busily preparing for our students to return to school from Monday 8th March and I am pleased to share the arrangements with you below. I want to also take this opportunity to say how pleased I have been with the uptake on Google Classroom and how students have taken to online learning.

COVID-19 Testing

I am sure by now that you are aware that secondary schools are being asked to **offer students three lateral flow tests** on site (leaving 3-5 days between each test) from 8 March. Testing remains optional and is not a condition of returning to lessons but it is 'strongly encouraged' that students take part in the testing. The more students that participate in the lateral flow testing, the safer the school will be for everyone.

Students can return to learning on site once they have had one negative test (or when their year group returns if they decline a test) in line with the return timetable below. After students have had three tests onsite (or the offer of three tests) they will be provided with home testing kits to continue with twice weekly testing at home.

The timetable for the return to school allowing for testing is as follows:

Year	First Test	First day Testing time	Second Test	Third Test
7	Monday 8th March Return to School on Tuesday 9th onwards	7E, 7Q & 7U – 9.30-10.30am 7A, 7L & 7I – 10.45am-12pm 7T & 7Y – 12.30 – 1.30pm	Thursday 11 th March	Tuesday 16 th March
8	Tuesday 9th March Return to school Wednesday 10th onwards	8E, 8Q & 8U – 9.30-10.30am 8A, 8L & 8I – 10.45am-12pm 8T & 8Y – 12.30 – 1.30pm	Friday 12 th March	Wednesday 17 th March
9	Wednesday 10th March Return to school on Thursday 11th onwards	9E, 9Q & 9U – 9.30-10.30am 9A, 9L & 9I – 10.45am-12pm 9T & 9Y – 12.30 – 1.30pm	Monday 15 th March	Thursday 18 th March
10	Wednesday 10th March Return to school on Thursday 11th onwards	1.30pm – 3.30pm	Monday 15 th March	Thursday 18 th March
11	Monday 8th March Return to School on Tuesday 9th onwards	1.30pm – 3.30pm	Thursday 11 th March	Tuesday 16 th March



On the day when students are tested there will be no live lessons due to the disruptive nature of the testing. Work will therefore be set by teachers on Google Classroom. Students will attend school **only to be tested** and then return home on this date. Students need to make sure that they only attend on the date above and do not attempt to attend with siblings in other years. We also need to make sure that we minimise the number of people in the building so parents will not be allowed into the testing centre to accompany students unless there is a specific need.

Consent

The testing is dependent on the completion of Consent Form and reading the Privacy Notice on the school website. We would ask all of you to complete the form to indicate whether or not you give your consent.

To confirm your consent for you or your child to be tested in School, please click on the following link and complete and submit the form **by 3.00pm on Thursday 4th March** in order for us to look at numbers and any changes that may be to made. **Please only complete the form if you have not already done so:** <https://forms.gle/gfi6cr4KvQ7dnJH59>.

If we do not receive a completed Consent Form by Thursday 4th March we will assume that you do not consent to your child being tested for COVID in School. Your child will therefore return to School on the date for their year group.

Returning to School

On the day that students are returning to school they will need to arrive at school through the entrance that they previously used at their usual time.

Year group	Entrance	Start Time
Year 7	Main Entrance	8.40am
Year 8	Belling Crescent	9.00am
Year 9	Main Entrance	9.00am
Year 10	Belling Crescent	8.40am
Year 11	Main Entrance	8.30am

The other notable change from the previous guidance is that for students in all year groups in secondary schools it is strongly recommended that they wear **face coverings in classrooms** as well as other communal areas. The guidance also encourages teachers to wear face coverings when delivering lessons where social distancing cannot be maintained, but it is not mandatory as this may present challenges for our students with hearing impairments.

In order to open the school, we have been asked to review our school risk assessments to ensure that we comply with the COVID secure measures. I will write to you again next week to revisit the details of this. In the meantime, the key COVID secure principles remain:

- Regular handwashing and hand sanitising
- Keeping students in year group bubbles and keeping those bubbles socially distanced at all times
- Ensuring the school is well ventilated
- The use of face masks in all communal areas

Students also need to be reminded of the importance of social distancing before and after school. They must remember that the stay at home guidance remains in place until the 29th March and therefore they should not



congregate in large groups in public on the way to, or home from, school.

Testing and Self-isolation

We must re-emphasise that the lateral flow tests are done to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases only. Therefore, anyone experiencing any symptoms must not attend school and must follow government guidelines to self-isolate and get a PCR test, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test. **You must continue to inform the school of any positive cases.**

Should a student test positive for COVID-19 during the testing process you will be informed and you will need to collect them from school. You will then need to isolate for 10 days from this date. When we transition to testing from home if a student tests positive for COVID-19 on a home test then you need to inform the school so that we can track and trace any other students who have also tested positive.

Please note, if your child has had COVID in the last 90 days, they will not need to do a lateral flow test as we expect that they will continue to have an elevated level of antibodies. This would show up as a positive COVID test and would result in your child having to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days.

Our Asymptomatic Test Site is being run by fully trained staff and we will support and reassure students throughout the whole process. Should you have any questions relating to the lateral flow device testing process please contact us at heron@chat-edu.org.uk

We will be hosting an online Zoom Q&A on Wednesday 3rd March at 6.30pm in order to answer any questions. The information for this can be found here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83195865862?pwd=amhiOTVwMSsxNTJKdUVPdXdIQIU4Zz09>

I have also recorded a **short video explaining about the return to school procedures** which can be found [here](#).

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back onto site and to the Spring and Summer months ahead.

With kind regards,



Mr A Barzey
Headteacher

