



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a restful half term- I am sure it was a relief to escape the digital devices and relax!

As you will have seen on the news last night we will be opening to all children from **Monday 8th March**. Today we will begin making plans for this and we will share them with you as soon as we can.

Here is what we know so far and the lines we are thinking along:

Testing

- Pupils will be tested three times in school and will then take a fourth test at home over a two-week period
- After that pupils will test at home twice a week and let us know the results
- Testing is **not compulsory** but advisable. We will be in touch this week to see if you want to give your consent to have your child tested
- We are busy working out how we will test all pupils. It is most likely that we will bring different year groups in on different days. This means not all children will start back on Monday 8th March but we hope to have everyone in by Friday 12th March. More information to follow

Masks

- The government guidance advises that pupils wear masks in classrooms as well as on corridors
- Since September pupils have been fantastic at wearing their masks whilst moving around school. Their mature approach has helped us so much
- We will be looking into ways to make wearing masks in classrooms more bearable for pupils. More information to follow

Remote Learning

- All children carry on learning as normal. Those at home, carry on. Those who are already in school, carry on.
- We have done remarkably well at this and we are so proud of the pupils-keep going until we get pupils back in the building
- It might be that we need to reduce the amount of live lessons from Friday 5th March so that teachers can focus on bringing pupils back into school. More information to follow

Amazing things happen here

Executive Principal : Mr P Murden
Headteacher : Mrs A Byrne





Support for Pupils Who Need a Little Extra

- We know some pupils have found the lockdown very hard. We know there are some pupils who will find it hard to come back into school after such a long time at home. We are here to help
- We know which pupils might need a chat before they return with staff and those who will benefit for coming in for a quick visit to get used to everything again before they fully return. We will be in touch with those families to arrange this

Year 11

- We are planning to run a round of PPEs soon. This is normal practice at this time of year
- Please reassure your child that they are well-prepared for exams. We expect them to try their best and we will help them over the coming months with any parts of the exams that they find difficult.
- These PPEs are important as they form a part of our assessment of their progress. However, they are not the only piece of evidence we will use so we do not want them putting too much pressure on themselves. We will use a range of evidence from Year 10 and Year 11 to help us make our judgements-we would never base the grades we will (most probably) send off to the exam board on one exam.
- We still do not know how pupils will be assessed for their GCSEs. However, we are getting on with it ourselves and gathering evidence to give your child the best chance of reaching their potential

Uniform, Uniform, Uniform!

One thing that will help all pupils to get back into the right routine is preparing their uniform. Please make sure your child has everything they need for when they return. This will help us welcome your child positively, rather than confronting them with uniform issues as soon as they come into school!

Here are some reminders of our high standards that we expect **all** children to meet:

- Full school uniform-blazer, tie, jumper, tailored trousers or skirt, shirt with a top button that closes
- Full PE kit for PE days
- Correct footwear-no trainers allowed unless on a PE day. If shoes do not fit/rub/are damaged, then please replace them **now**. We will not allow any incorrect footwear
- Hairstyles must be appropriate-no unnatural hair colours or extreme hair allowed. If your child has these hairstyles, then now is the time to address this

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- No fake tan, false nails, heavy make-up, piercings allowed. Please make sure your child removes these before returning
- Dark-coloured coats only
- Strong bag
- Mask brought in each day

If you are facing financial difficulties and will struggle to send your child into school in full and correct uniform, then please get in touch now. Do not leave it until the day your child returns. As always, we will do our best to support our families.

Phones

- We have always allowed pupils to use their phones in school. They are sensible and we trust them. Please remind them that phones are only to be used at social times or in class when a teacher says. We will remind them too
- Now we are technological whizzkids (!) we hope to use more tech in lessons to engage all pupils. We know some pupils will enter a comment in the chat on a Teams lesson in a way they might not put their hand up. We will be looking at ways to keep this positive aspect of remote learning in our classrooms

This has been a long letter but I want you to feel reassured and be reminded after such a long time at home.

We have lots of thinking and planning to do this week. We will be in touch as soon as we can to give you a clear plan of action. Please be assured that at the heart of every decision is the health, safety and well-being of your child. We know we have your trust and we thank you for putting your faith in us. I will upload a video too to go through all I have written in this letter for those parents who prefer to watch.

Take care. I will be in touch soon.

Mrs Byrne

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