



Letter No: 85/2021

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25th February 2021

Dear Students, (cc: Parents and Carers),

IMPORTANT – Plan for return to school – March 2021

I would be most grateful if you could read this letter carefully so that you understand what you need to do for the return to school.

On Monday, the Prime Minister outlined the Government's roadmap for recovery, which begins with schools returning from Monday 8th March 2021.

We have been considering how best to return everyone safely and have now finalised our plans for you to return to on-site learning.

The Government have asked schools to deliver three lateral flow tests to you on site, and then provide home testing kits that should be used twice-weekly from then on. The aim is that everyone is screened and if you do test positive, then you should take a PCR test and self-isolate until clear of infection. I hope you agree that it is important we maintain a clean site as far as possible and follow this guidance.

Schools have also been asked to begin lessons once you have tested negative through the lateral flow test.

Sandringham has over 1600 students on roll so there are certain logistical issues to be considered. We can only process a certain number of students each day, which means that some of you will have to wait longer before being able to return to school.

Our priority is with those students who are near to completing their courses, which means we will be testing older students first in our programme of return, as shown below:

Lateral flow test 1	From 8:30am (by tutor group)	From 11:15am (by tutor group)
Friday 5 March	11	13
Monday 8 March	10	12
Tuesday 9 March	8	9
Wednesday 10 March	7	



We will be contacting you next week with a detailed time for testing which will be completed in tutor groups.

1. You should only arrive at school at your allocated time and wait outside the SandPit Theatre, which is being used as the testing station.
2. Once tested, you must go straight home to continue with your on-line lessons. Staff will know when you are due in for a test and will accommodate this in their teaching schedule.
3. If you are not being tested on a particular day, then lessons continue as normal through the virtual learning curriculum.

As you can see, we will be testing Years 11 and 13 on Friday 5th March which means if you are in these two year groups you are able to return to school as normal on Monday 8th March.

The next table shows when each year group will return to full-time education on site.

Return to School	Year group
Monday 8 March	11 and 13
Tuesday 9 March	10 and 12
Wednesday 10 March	8 and 9
Thursday 11 March	7

As you can see, we will have all students back on site by Thursday 11th March. Please accept our apologies for this staggered return, we know you are very keen to get back to normal however we have to operate within the confines of the legislation.

When you do return to school, things will operate very much the same as before you left in December.

1. Please have TWO face masks with you each day, in case one gets lost or damaged.
2. You should have all your own equipment (and spares) to avoid having to borrow material from other people.
3. The ONE-WAY system must be followed inside the buildings and you must wear a face mask when in the buildings.
4. Keep to the left when walking outside to avoid congestion.
5. You should keep in small groups of 6 or less at break and lunchtimes.
6. Break and lunchtime rotas will be as previously.

There is one change to the guidance which now recommends wearing face masks in lessons as well as when in the corridors and other internal spaces. Your teachers will explain this to you and there may be some subjects (such as PE) where this does not apply.

As always, your behaviour and standards are impeccable and it is important that we maintain these high standards to ensure everyone is as safe and secure as possible, and enjoys their return to Sandringham.

I would suggest that you check your uniform to make sure that it still fits and is in good condition for the remainder of the year and this includes shoes. With regards to hairstyles and jewellery, the rules are the same so please refer to these prior to returning to ensure you do not get into trouble and have to be sent home to sort things out. Staff will be checking on day one, as you would expect them to do.

Finally, senior students will be hearing more about the awarding of their GCSE, BTEC and A-level qualifications this summer. The guidance has come out today and we hope to communicate our plans at some point tomorrow. What we do know is that there will be a number of internal assessments being taken in school which means that younger students will need to be considerate whilst these are taking place.

I hope the above helps you to prepare for returning to school and we very much look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Gray
Headteacher