



26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## Returning to School and Testing

I am now able to confirm our arrangements for returning to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March in line with all schools. We have considered this carefully and have looked for this to happen in a safe and secure manner, meeting all of the requirements around the government's guidelines.

We are going to bring students back into school in a phased manner to fit in with testing. The government is clear that students are to come into school for testing before they start back formally rather than being tested on their first full day. This is to make sure that if testing does pick up positive cases then students have not been close to each other and therefore will not require others to immediately isolate for ten days. This strategy is being used in all of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership secondary schools.

	<b>Testing Day</b>	<b>First Full Day Back</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	<i>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<b>Years 11 and 13</b>	<i>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<b>Years 10 and 12</b>	<i>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<b>Year 8</b>	<i>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<b>Year 9</b>	<i>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March</i>

Where consent has been given, students will receive a time that day when they are to be brought to school for their test – these will be sent out next week. Parents and carers are asked to stay in their cars in the dedicated parking bays, which are in the area closest to the Science block and will be clearly marked. Students are asked to have a mask with them and will be met at the gate by a member of staff. We would anticipate this taking approximately 15 - 20 minutes. Once completed they will return to the car park and leave the site. Parents/carers will be contacted after this only if the student tests positive. This process is only needed for the first test back into school; the second and third tests will happen during the normal school day.

We are aware that students and families are unsure of how this process might happen so I have put together a short vimeo film to demonstrate: <https://vimeo.com/517100981/182820326a>

Students will return fully to school on the day following their test. Whilst some students have been attending school since Christmas, for many returning, it will be the first time back for several months. We will therefore have a team of bespoke staff who are going to teach an induction morning to each year group which will take either two or three periods. Year 7 will have this all day on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March and they should attend in their PE kit on this day. Staff will go through some important work around how it feels to be back in school and induct them into the area that their bubble will be based in for the weeks leading up to Easter, including where food can be purchased from Aspens, our caterers, and which toilet facilities they are able to use.

For your information the locations until Easter are:

<i>Year 7</i>	<i>One half of our Lower School building</i>
<i>Year 8</i>	<i>Humanities building</i>
<i>Year 9</i>	<i>Science block</i>

Year 10	Hall end of Lower School building
Year 11	English Block

We are expecting full school uniform to be worn on all days unless they have a PE lesson that day when correct PE kit should be in evidence.

## **A Reminder of Symptoms and Actions around Coronavirus**

Can I also use this opportunity to remind everyone of the symptoms of coronavirus below and to be really clear around the protocol now in place should a student be self-isolating or indeed show symptoms.

Main symptoms:

- **a high temperature** - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** - this means that you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If students have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they are to get a test as soon as possible and stay at home until the result comes back. The student, and anyone who they live with, should stay at home and not have visitors until the test result – the only reason to leave the home is to go for a test. Anyone in the support bubble should also stay at home if they have been in close contact since the symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

As far as school is concerned therefore, if your child is self-isolating because they have been in contact with someone who has contracted COVID-19 then could you please let us know via the Attendance Officer, Mrs Williams. If on the other hand they show symptoms and you therefore are going to need to take them for a test, can you contact Mrs Lane, my Personal Assistant, and let her know either via the main reception number 01275 332272 or via email [nlane@chewvalleyschool.co.uk](mailto:nlane@chewvalleyschool.co.uk). It is really important that you then communicate back with Mrs Lane to let her know if the test has come back positive or negative.

## **Remote Learning During this Period**

A good number of our staff have not been on site during recent months and they also will need to be tested and get ready for the school being full of students. Next week, staff will therefore be in school on a rota as highlighted below:

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	-	Science, Geography, RE and DT
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Maths, Modern Foreign Languages, Art, Business and ICT
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	-	English, History, PE, Drama, Music, Dance

On these days therefore, there will be no 'live lessons' in these subjects and learning will be placed on Teams in advance.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March there will be a full programme of remote learning for students on Teams if they are not in school either all day (Tuesday – Year 7), or testing (Tuesday Years 11 and 13). From Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> there will be no remote live learning, with work being set for those at home.

## **Arrangements for Year 11 and 13 Examinations and the end of the Year**

The government yesterday morning released headlines and then followed this up with more detail on how summer grades and levels are going to be arrived at. We are pleased that we now have guidance and that we do not anticipate any changes to procedure as schools experienced last year.

However there is much work to be done to support the students during this time and make sure that everyone receives outcomes that are fair and robust. We are working with the other secondary schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, Gordano and Backwell, to agree our framework for dealing with this and any process will be moderated by departments, the school leadership team, governors and trustees of our Trust. When we are in a position to respond to students, parents and carers in an open and transparent fashion around how these will be generated, I will be in contact. Can I ask that, until that time, parents, carers and students do not contact individual members of staff to ask what outcomes will be.

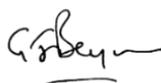
The government has published the 10<sup>th</sup> August as A Level and other Level 3 courses results day, with GCSE and other Level 2 courses being published on the 12<sup>th</sup> August. We are in consultation about leaving dates for both year groups with the other schools and as soon as we have made a decision I will let you know. I am conscious that families may wish to have this information sooner rather than later and I will endeavour to get this to you within the next week.

We are excited and pleased to be able to bring students back into school. The job of a teacher is to deliver their work in a classroom, lab, studio or another open space where they can set the tone for effective learning based on positive relationships and mutual respect. Whilst staff and students have worked incredibly hard to make remote learning a success, it certainly has not replaced our normal way of working. I have said to staff that I very much hope that by the summer some of the many things that make our school a unique and special place away from the classroom may again be able to flourish.

It is important however at the moment to realise that for the rest of the country lockdown is very much still in evidence and we must continue to emphasise our protocol around wearing masks, social distancing, using sanitiser and following national guidelines. We are busy making preparations for returning including making sure all of our displays around coronavirus are in place. We are currently updating our risk assessment which by the end of next week will be on the school website for everyone to read.

There are other details, such as being clear about our expectations in classrooms and corridors as well as other parts of the school, which I will be sharing with you and the students next week in another letter.

With best wishes



Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher