



Welcome
back!

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RETURN TO THE GOLD STANDARD

MARCH 2021



THIS MINI GUIDE WILL TAKE YOU THROUGH OUR PLANS FOR A RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR ALL OUR STUDENTS FROM THE WEEK BEGINNING THE 8TH OF MARCH 2021

As you may know the government issued some guidance on Monday 22nd February. We have made decisions based upon our own context, for example, the fact that we have three sites and a large number of students travel to school by bus.

In September we had a very successful and safe phased return of students. The return this March will also be phased over the first week to allow us to remind students of our expectations and routines to keep them safe. We will also be making arrangements to test students three times for Coronavirus.

This guide will provide some answers to questions that you may have and will help you to talk through the issues with your daughter/son.

We have planned to get your children back to school as safely as possible and we are really looking forward to welcoming them back!



WHEN DOES MY CHILD START AND WHERE WILL S/HE GO ON THE FIRST DAY?

Friday 5th March

This will be a second consolidation day for students to complete curriculum tasks so that they can 'hit the ground running' as well as a simple well-being survey. Y12 and Y13 have been invited to have their first test on this day. Year 12 invited in for their test between 10am and 12 noon, once they have their test they leave. Year 13 invited in for test between 12noon and 2pm, once they have had their test they can also leave.

Monday 8th March at 8.00am. Y10, Y12 and Y13 are in school.

Y10 on the Acacia Road and Y12 and Y13 in the sixth form centre. Y10 should go to relevant site and line up outside. Staff will be there to guide you. Normal lessons for Y12 and Y13 from period 1. The school day will finish at 2.15pm.

Consolidation activities and tasks will continue for Y7, Y8, Y9, and Y11

Tuesday 9th March at 8.00am. Y10, Y11, Y12 and Y13 are in school.

Year 11 will be on the Acacia Road site and should arrive for 8.00am and line up outside. Staff will be there to guide you. Normal lessons for Y10, Y12 and Y13 from period 1. The school day will finish at 2.15pm.

Consolidation activities and tasks will continue for Y7, Y8 and Y9



Wednesday 10th March at 8.00am. Y7, Y10, Y11, Y12 and Y13 are in school.

Y7 will be on the Cantley Road site. Year 7 should arrive for 8.00am and line up outside. Staff will be there to guide you.

Normal lessons for Y10, Y11, Y12 and Y13 from period 1. The school day will finish at 2.15pm.

Consolidation activities and tasks will continue for Y8 and Y9

Thursday 11th March at 8.00am Y7, Y9, Y10, Y11, Y12 and Y13 are in school.

Y9 will be on the Acacia Road site. Year 9 should arrive for 8.00am and line up outside. Staff will be there to guide you.

Normal lessons for Y7, Y10, Y11, Y12 and Y13 from period 1. The school day will finish at 2.15pm.

Consolidation activities and tasks will continue for Y8

Friday 12th March at 8.00am . ALL year groups will be in school.

Y8 will be on the Cantley Road site. They should arrive for 8.00am go to relevant site and line up outside. Staff will be there to guide you.

Normal lessons for Y7, Y9, Y10, Y11, Y12 and Y13 from period 1. The school day will finish at 2.15pm.

To enable staff to manage the testing process we will be not be able to offer provision for the children of key workers this week.

We will be open to SEND and vulnerable students whose parents and carers will be contacted separately regarding arrangements.

WHEN WILL MY CHILD BE TESTED FOR COVID-19?

The expectation is that students will be tested three times within the first two weeks back. We require parental consent for this. To date we have had well over 70% of parents who have given their consent. We would strongly encourage a 100% return. This is the only way that this can have the desired effect and, in addition, minimise the chances of further disruption to the Gold Standard of face to face teaching and learning. Before students can access face to face teaching they should first receive a negative test.

In order for us to manage this we will be graduating our return over the 5 days in the week commencing 8th March. Pupils will return on their designated day, line up outside the site and then be taken to their form base and wait to be tested. Pupils will receive their second and third test over a 2 week period, but will be withdrawn from lesson to complete the testing.

Once all students in the year group have been tested they will return to face to face teaching on their normal timetable. Once a year group has returned to School and had their test they will be return to their normal timetable the next day. Sixth form will be invited in for testing Friday 5th March and will then leave returning to normal lessons from Monday 8th March.





THE TIMETABLE FOR TESTING IS BELOW. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SHARED WITH STUDENTS IN THE W/C 8TH MARCH.

W/C 1st March	Year Group to be Tested
Monday	-
Tuesday	-
Wednesday	-
Thursday	-
Friday	12/13 (1st test)

W/C 8th March	Year Group to be Tested
Monday	10 (1st test)
Tuesday	11 (1st test)
Wednesday	7 (1st test) 12/13 (2nd test)
Thursday	9 (1st test) 10 (2nd test)
Friday	8 (1st test) 11 (2nd test)

W/C 15th March	Year Group to be Tested
Monday	7 (2nd test) 12/13 (3rd test)
Tuesday	9 (2nd test) 10 (3rd test)
Wednesday	8 (2nd test) 11 (3rd test)
Thursday	7 (3rd test)
Friday	9 (3rd test)

W/C 22nd March	Year Group to be Tested
Monday	8 (3rd test)
Tuesday	-
Wednesday	-
Thursday	-
Friday	-

HOW CAN MY CHILD BEST PREPARE FOR THE RETURN TO THE **GOLD STANDARD?**

Make full use of consolidation days. Your teachers will give you some idea **in advance** of the best way that you can prepare for a full return to the gold standard of teaching and learning. Use the time that you have to complete the tasks that they set you because these will dovetail and link with your first lessons back. There are likely to be a lot less 'live' lessons this week but with many more extended tasks covering a number of lessons. You will also be asked to complete a well-being survey for **your first day in school which will start with FORM TIME.**

We will also be reminding students about the following;

1. **The organisation of Learning (Curriculum)**
2. **Keeping students safe (Behaviour and Pastoral)**

The organisation of Learning (Curriculum) **Will my child continue to follow the full Curriculum?**

Yes, all students will follow their full timetable and be taught all curriculum subjects on that timetable but with some modifications. We will continue to organise our Year groups into 'zones' thereby maintaining 'Year group bubbles'.

Y7 and Y8 will be taught in form groups and be based in the same rooms each week on the Cantley Lane site. Y9, 10 and Y11 groups will be able to move to options rooms within their own zones on the Acacia Road site. There will be no crossing of sites except by sixth form students.





Keeping students safe (Behaviour and Pastoral)

We have been working hard to make the site safe for when we have a full return. You will find that we have, therefore modified our Best Standards of Behaviour. This has all the usual high standards of good behaviour but updated to include clear expectations. This will be a key feature of our induction days.

Will my child be expected to wear full uniform from March?

YES. We expect all students to wear full uniform and be fully equipped. The new elements of the school uniform are still available to purchase.

Will my child be expected to wear a face covering from March?

YES. In all communal areas and in classrooms up until Easter in the first instance. The expectations for wearing face coverings whilst travelling on buses is unchanged.

Attendance : Will it be mandatory for my child to attend school from March?

Yes. The Government guidance is clear and hasn't changed. Every child is expected to attend school full time.

Remember to bring and wear your lanyards at all times.

To minimise the risk of the transmission of germs every child has been issued with a swipe card and a lanyard. We carried the cost of this and the cards were issued free of charge. A charge of £5 will be payable for a replacement card.

Hygiene - We will continue with enhanced cleaning and expect students to use our external handwashing facilities, to maintain social distancing at ALL times.



HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD TO TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL LIFE:

- 1. Talk to your child about how they are feeling** about going back to school and try not to make assumptions. Ask them if they are worried or feel scared about anything, but also if they are excited about or looking forward to something. No matter how your child feels, let them know that it is completely normal to feel a mixture of emotions and that everyone will be in the same boat. Have a look at more advice on starting a conversation with your child.
- 2. Provide your child with as much information about their new routine and school day as you can.** This will help them to prepare for any changes that have been made to the timings of their day, the layout of their classroom, their peer groups and playtimes. Look on the school website and social media for information regarding the return to school.
- 3. Reassure your child.** During the lockdown we have been told to stay at home, remain socially distant from others and wash our hands regularly. This means children may find it difficult to go back to school because it will be a huge change from what they have been asked to do during the pandemic. Talk with your child about ways they can stay safe at school, such as washing their hands before and after eating, and reassure them that the school are putting measures in place to keep them safe.



4. Re-establish a routine to help ease into school life. During lockdown it is understandable that your family's routine may have changed. Children are likely to have been waking up later or going to bed later. To help them get ready for school, try to gradually get them back into their usual morning and bedtime routines as they get closer to their return date.

5. Don't put pressure on yourself. The transition back into school is likely to take some time. Lots of children will experience ups and downs. Try your best to support, reassure and comfort them, without putting pressure on yourself to make sure their homework is done or they settle into a new routine straightaway.

6. Think ahead. As well as reflecting on what has happened during the past few weeks, it is important to help children develop hope and a sense of excitement for the future. At a time like this, it can be hard to feel positive, but identifying the things that they can look forward to will help them to realise that the current situation won't last forever and their feelings will change.

7. Seek support if you need it. Transitioning back to school after being in lockdown is no easy task. You may find that your child struggles to get back into school or experiences difficulties while they're at school. If this is the case, reach out to your child's school as soon as you can so that you can make them aware of the challenges and work together to support your child. If you are concerned about your child's mental health and you think they need professional support, speak to the school and your GP about the best next step.

THANK YOU



We are really looking forward to welcoming your children back to school.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you once again for your support and understanding.

John Rooney
Headteacher