

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family were able to enjoy a relaxing half term. I am sure the week away from remote learning has helped them recoup and re-energise for the weeks ahead. I definitely feel that we are moving ahead with positivity as we enter the second half of the Spring Term.

We are delighted that the Government has prioritised the return to school in their announcement this week. We desperately want the students back in school and to reconnect as a physical community once again. The Government has made it clear that the expectation is that all students should be back in school, as soon as possible, from the 8th March.

We are in the process of revising our risk assessment and working through all of the detailed Government guidance. It is imperative that we get our students back in school safely and that we absolutely minimise any further disruption to their lives. We must remember that the virus still poses a significant risk and everything we do must continue to protect our community from the spread of COVID as we keep students, staff, parents and our wider community safe. As always we also have to work within the parameters set by the Government.

Today, I can provide you with details specific to your child and their year group.

Staggered Return to School

Firstly, we will need to implement a staggered return to school. This is driven by the Government's requirement that secondary school students and staff should undertake a Lateral Flow Test and **receive a negative result before returning to the classroom.**

As you can imagine, this is a huge logistical undertaking and in order for the vast majority of the children to begin we will be asking some children to be tested on Thursday and Friday next week. We have several members of our support staff and some parent volunteers trained to deliver tests quickly and safely. However, our designated testing centre can only accommodate a certain number of tests per day. Thus, with the number of students we have in the Secondary School, not all children will be able to receive their first test to return on Monday 8th March.

In line with Government guidance, we have prioritised the testing of the examinations cohorts of years 10 and year 11, followed by critical worker children, and then any additional capacity we have selected year 9 and two year 8 classes at random for their first tests. **These parents/carers are required to book a test (details below).**

Junior School students are not required to take tests, so they will all be able to return to face-to-face lessons from 8th March.

Please check the table at the end of this email for further testing details and the return date and time for your child.

Lateral Flow Tests

Once the secondary school students are back in school, they will be required to undertake a further two Lateral Flow Tests between three and five days after the previous one. After this point we will be distributing home kits. These are not required if your child has tested positive in the last 90 days.

Although Lateral Flow Tests are not a mandatory requirement, we strongly recommend that all Secondary School students and staff undertake them to help keep our community, and your families safe

Secondary School Lateral Flow Test Consent Form

We do need parental/guardian permission for your child to be tested. Please do complete this by **Tuesday 3rd March 12noon** if you have not already done so whether you consent or decline.

Please complete via the link here <https://forms.gle/hwcj6GdmpG9Y2bWS6>

Attendance

Government guidance states that all students apart from clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) are required to attend from the week beginning 8th March. If your child cannot return to school as they have been asked to shield, please inform the school via our attendance officer ajohnson@bestacademies.org.uk

We are aware that many in our community will require additional support and reassurance as we return to school. We understand the impact that the last twelve months has had on the well-being of the young people in our care. Our Pastoral Team, as well as the wider staff body, are here to support all of our students as we readjust and move slowly forward through the next stage of the pandemic. If you have any specific concerns about your child please email their Form Tutor.

COVID Secure Operational Guidance

All of our COVID secure measures remain in place in both the Junior and Secondary Schools. All students will be directed to testing site on arrival. The secondary students will continue to move around the site for lessons, using the one way systems; arrangements for staggered break times and lunchtimes will remain in place as well as the use the regular sanitising on entry and exit to classrooms and teacher's sanitising tables in between lessons. Students will be reminded of all of the arrangements once they are back in School.

Mandatory Wearing of Face Coverings

The use of face coverings is an important part of keeping our community safe, protecting our staff and anyone vulnerable in our wider community, and giving us the best possible chance of keeping students in school full time. Therefore, all Secondary School students and all staff will wear face coverings in communal areas and in

classrooms at all times, unless they are unable to perform a task effectively, are outside, are playing sport in PE, or are exempt from wearing a face-covering. Children will require a sealable bag to store their face covering.

The Government has recognised the need for the enhanced use of face coverings in schools at this critical time, to limit the spread of the virus, we appreciate that it is not ideal for the students or our staff. We will review this policy for the Summer Term dependent upon transmission rates, Government guidelines and the vaccination programme. Any parent or visitor coming onto our site will be expected to wear a face covering at all times and to follow our social distancing guidance.

Face coverings are not mandatory in the Junior School. Should your child wish to wear one whilst coming to school and moving around the building they are welcome to do so. Some members of our Junior staff may wear face coverings, for example, when working closely with children.

Please note that the Government guidance is very clear that visors are NOT suitable face coverings and we expect students to wear masks or fabric face coverings.

GCSE Examinations

Yesterday we received the updated government guidance relating to the procedures for the assessment of this year's GCSE and BTEC examinations and we will communicate our plans as soon as possible.

I know you will have many questions regarding the wider aspects of school life and the curriculum for the rest of this term. However, please can I request that you wait until next week's bulletin as I am sure our communications at that point will address many of these more detailed issues.

I apologise for the length of this letter, but I hope it provides at least a little clarity to families about what the next few weeks will bring.

I cannot wait to welcome your child back into school in just over a week; they have been greatly missed by myself and all of the staff.

Kind Regards

Ian Evason

TESTING AND RETURN TO SCHOOL

All secondary students should go straight to The Pendleton Centre reception for their test. If your child is not required to test, a member of staff will be there to guide your child.

Students will be receiving guidance on what to expect and how to do their test during a remote Tutor time next week.

If your child is aged 11yrs, they will be required to have a swab test supported by a trained adult.

Booking System for COVID 19 tests (Y11,Y10,Y9 and 8JB,8JW) - <https://etonburyacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Year Group	1st Test Date	Return to school	Notes
Year 5 and 6	Not required	Monday 8 th March 8:30am	Please arrive no earlier than 8:15am Thank you
11	Thursday 4th March	Monday 8th March 8.40am	Test to be booked by parents via the schools booking system https://etonburyacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/
10	Thursday 4th March	Monday 8th March 8.40am	Test to be booked by parents via the schools booking system https://etonburyacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/
9	Friday 5th March	Monday 8th March 8.40am	Test to be booked by parents via the schools booking system https://etonburyacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/
8JB & 8JW	Friday 5th March	Monday 8th March 8.40am	Test to be booked by parents via the schools booking system https://etonburyacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/
8SH & 8DC	Monday 8th March Arrive for testing period 3 11.30-12.30pm	Monday 8th March During P3	Await test result in waiting zone and return to class if result is negative
8CS & 8SP	Monday 8th March Arrive for testing period 4 12.30-1.30pm	Monday 8th March During P4	Await test result in waiting zone and return to class if result is negative
7OB	Tuesday 9th March	Tuesday 9th March	Await test result in waiting zone and return to class if result is negative. If your child is aged

	Arrive for testing period 1 9.10- 9.40am	During P1	11yrs, they will be required to have a swab test supported by a trained adult.
7DS	Tuesday 9th March Arrive for testing period 1 9.40am -10.10am	Tuesday 9th March During P1	Await test result in waiting zone and return to class if result is negative. If your child is aged 11yrs, they will be required to have a swab test supported by a trained adult.
7EH	Tuesday 9th March Arrive for testing period 2 10.10-10.40am	Tuesday 9th March During P2	Await test result in waiting zone and return to class if result is negativ. If your child is aged 11yrs, they will be required to have a swab test supported by a trained adult.
7AB	Tuesday 9th March Arrive for testing period 2 10.40-11.10am	Tuesday 9th March During P2	Await test result in waiting zone and return to class if result is negative.If your child is aged 11yrs, they will be required to have a swab test supported by a trained adult.
7JD	Tuesday 9th March Arrive for testing period 3 11.30-12pm	Tuesday 9th March During P3	Await test result in waiting zone and return to class if result is negativ. If your child is aged 11yrs, they will be required to have a swab test supported by a trained adult.
7CC	Tuesday 9th March Arrive for testing period 3 12-12.30pm	Tuesday 9th March During P3	Await test result in waiting zone and return to class if result is negative. If your child is aged 11yrs, they will be required to have a swab test supported by a trained adult.