

26th February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As you are likely aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all pupils from **8th March 2021**. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back more of our students to face-to-face education.

School attendance

The latest [government guidance](#) on school reopening says we can welcome students back on a phased basis during the week of 8th March to help manage our coronavirus testing programme. So, on the week starting 8 March, we will be return as set out below.:

Students will come in to be tested and then return home. If the COVID test is negative they can return the following day to normal classes in full school uniform. Individual COVID test appointment times will be sent out.

Year	Test Date	Return to school Date
Year 7	Tuesday 9th March	Wednesday 10th March
Year 8	Tuesday 9th March	Wednesday 10th March
Year 9	Thursday 11th March	Friday 12th March
Year 10	Monday 8th March	Tuesday 9th March
Year 11	Wednesday 10th March	Thursday 11th March

Vulnerable children and children of critical workers can continue to attend in their bubbles. When their year group returns they can then join their year group bubble.

School attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply. As a reminder, **students should self-isolate and not come to school** if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

In line with the latest government guidance, students who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice. Please provide us with a copy of your child's shielding letter. For students who are self-isolating or shielding, we will continue to provide live remote lessons following the normal school timetable.

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Coronavirus testing (Lateral Flow Tests)

To help us keep everyone safe, we'll be offering rapid coronavirus testing to all our students as they return from 8th March. Students will be asked to take 3 coronavirus tests at school, with 3 to 5 days between each test. Test results will take about 30 minutes to process. Students can return to school after their first negative result. If at any point they test positive, they will need to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

Testing is voluntary, and you will need to give consent for it to be carried out. The consent form is attached. It can be sent electronically (to testandtrace@beaconhigh.org or by hand. However, we strongly encourage your child to take part so we can help prevent the spread of coronavirus. If your child is not participating in testing, they should attend school as usual in line with our phased return arrangements above.

After the 3 initial tests at school, students will be offered coronavirus tests that they should take twice a week at home. We will send you this information in due course.

Our safety measures

Rest assured that we're doing everything we can to make sure our students can return to school safely. From 8th March, we'll be taking the following protective measures:

We'll ask that all **students wear a face covering in classrooms, communal areas and corridors**. This is in line with the latest government guidance for schools.

- Students will continue to use separate entrances as they did in the Autumn Term.
- There will be a phased dismissal at the end of the day.
- Students will remain in year group bubbles at least until the end of March.
- Students must continue to use the year group bubble toilets assigned to them.
- Students must continue to follow hygiene measures such as hand-washing and sanitising.
- We will continue to operate staggered lunches and break times.
- Families are reminded that gathering at the school gate and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed.

Additional support

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we'd like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, or if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch.

We'd also like to thank you again for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We'll continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

Yours faithfully,



Mr A Streeter
Headteacher