



Taverham
High School

An 11-18 Academy
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Headteacher Ms Carol Dallas

To: all parents/carers

26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you all well and safe and that the half term break was as restful as possible. I am delighted to be able to write to you today to outline our plan for returning all students to school.

As you may have seen, the Prime Minister announced on Monday afternoon that we can begin to welcome all students back to school from Monday 8 March. As part of this full re-opening, in order to keep our community safe, we are required to offer lateral flow testing to all students before they re-enter classrooms. Our intention, in line with guidance from the DfE, is therefore to bring year groups into school at staggered times from next week to carry out this testing. Students will attend school to be tested, if we have received permission to do this, then return home immediately afterwards while we await the test results and test further students. All students, if their test results are negative, will then return to school on Monday 8 March.

When will my child be tested?

In line with the guidance from the government, we intend to begin by testing Years 11-13 on Wednesday 3 March. We will test Year 9 and Year 10 students on Thursday 4 March, followed by Year 7 and Year 8 students on Friday 5 March.

All students who travel in from the Queens Hill area will be invited in on the morning of Friday 5 March for their first test and will then be returned home by bus immediately after.

Over the next few days, we will send home personalised schedules of when your child will be invited for testing. Please do not arrive early for testing as the test centre (the main hall) will be very busy and it is important that we continue to maintain social distancing as much as possible. When your child arrives for their first test, they will need to wear a face covering (unless exempt) and enter the hall from the school field side of the building. Students cannot be accompanied by family members, but you are welcome to wait in cars in the car park. If you believe your child will require additional support with their test, please contact the school and we will make appropriate arrangements.

If fewer families wish to take part in testing than we anticipate we may be able to bring these dates forward, but we will not know that until we have had permissions back from families this week. Please therefore return your online permission slips as soon as possible to support our planning. Our recent testing of students in school from critical workers has included around 95% and so we expect the majority of the community will wish to take up this offer.

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Does my child have to be tested to be able to return to school?

No. Participation in the lateral flow testing is voluntary and Miss Ricketts will write home shortly with an online form to complete to give permission for your child to be tested. If, for whatever reason, you do not wish for your child to be tested, they can still return to school with the rest of their year group as long as they are not required to isolate and no one in the household is showing symptoms of Covid-19.

After the initial testing, students for whom we have permission will be tested a further two times over the following ten days. They will then be offered the opportunity to take tests at home twice a week. This should support our community in identifying asymptomatic cases and reduce the number of positive cases in school.

Does my child have to return to school?

Yes. The Prime Minister has made it clear that unless children are critically extremely vulnerable or have other extenuating circumstances, they should return to school during the week commencing 8 March 2021. As a school we welcome this and, as before, we have put in place a range of measures to keep our community as safe as possible and to allow you to send your child to school with confidence.

How can we support our child in returning to school?

This has been a particularly difficult time for all members of our community with many families and colleagues experiencing ill health, the loss of loved ones and financial challenges. Many people find change difficult and the transition back into classroom-based learning will prove challenging for many students. Please spend some time discussing the term ahead with your child. Help them to be understanding that their peers and their teachers have found this lockdown difficult and that they may need to be mindful of this in their everyday actions. Similarly, please emphasise that your child's attitude toward their learning over the next term and a half will be pivotal to their progress.

When they return to school, we intend to support your child by helping them identify areas of the curriculum where they are less confident. High quality resources and learning opportunities will be provided to help them feel more confident in these areas.

To start this process, on Thursday and Friday next week we will be sending home details of the curriculum covered during this period of remote learning, in the form of curriculum plans, personal learning checklists and knowledge organisers, along with self-reflection tools. This will be in place of setting new learning tasks for these two days. Please support your child to review and complete these, being honest and reflective on the areas that they need further support or guidance with. If your child can return to school with a clear idea of which areas they have struggled with and which they feel most confident in, it will allow us to better support them over the next term.

We will be using many assessment starter activities in class, as well as more summative, exam-style assessments to support your child in identifying and filling gaps in their learning. We will also be reviewing the planned curriculum for the next term and a half to ensure that it supports your child's progress.

We will return to school on a Week 1 and you will be advised separately by letter of any set changes affecting your child, which were originally planned for January.

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If you have any concerns regarding your child's return to school, please do not hesitate to contact us:

SEND queries: r_dixon@taverhamhigh.org
Attendance: s_derrick@taverhamhigh.org
Head of Year 7: d.birkin@taverhamhigh.org
Head of Year 8: s_philpot@taverhamhigh.org
Head of Year 9: s_allen@taverhamhigh.org
Head of Year 10: v.phillips@taverhamhigh.org
Head of Year 11: k_brook@taverhamhigh.org
Head of Sixth Form: j.linnell@taverhamhigh.org

As ever, thank you for your support and kindness over this period of remote education. Students, families and colleagues have worked tirelessly to ensure that learning can continue even in this most difficult of times and we look forward to welcoming students back to school very soon.

Yours faithfully



Gareth Yassin
Deputy Headteacher