

2 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and students

Thank you for your patience in waiting for clarity on the arrangements for the return to school of students from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Hagley Catholic High School will be operating a staggered return over the first three days to allow for the mass asymptomatic testing of all students with consent.

You should be aware that attendance is now mandatory from week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March and all students are expected to be in school.

No changes have been made to the bubble blocks, timetable, teaching rooms or allocated toilets and this will operate as it did in the second half of the autumn term. This includes staggered departure times of 3.25pm and 3.35pm for Key Stage 3, and then Key Stage 4/5 respectively. Students should also continue to attend school in their PE kit on PE days only, and this must be in line with the PE uniform policy and expectations.

### **Staggered Return**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – **Years 11, 12 and 13** return to school, all other years remain at home and continue with online lessons. Children of key workers/vulnerable children can attend as usual.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – **Years 7 and 10** return to school, Years 8 and 9 remain at home and continue with online lessons, Years 11, 12 and 13 are in school.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – **Years 8 and 9** return to school, all years are now in school fulltime.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – **All Years now in school full time.**

Please remember that no child should return to school if they are currently isolating, or if they are displaying any COVID 19 symptoms. If they are arrangements should be made, as previously advised, to get a PCR test at a local testing site. This cannot be done at school. Any suspected or positive case should be reported to school immediately.

### **Mass Asymptomatic Testing**

As I have mentioned in my previous letters, I would urge everyone to have a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test on their return to school and provide consent as previously requested. We will test all students with consent on 3 occasions between Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021, after which students will be sent home with 'test at home kits' to be completed twice weekly until Easter initially, with further guidance to follow on this in due course.

We have been operating our Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) very successfully since 7<sup>th</sup> January with staff and students, and you should be reassured by this. Please also be reassured that no one will be forced to take a test, even if consent has been provided.



**Return to school plans**

From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March all school transport will be running as expected.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March all key worker/vulnerable students in Years 7 to 10 should sign in at reception and then report to the hall, as they do now.

Year 11, 12 and 13 should arrive at school at the usual time. Year 11 should head to their blocks/tutor rooms, while Year 12/13 students who have consented for testing should head straight to the ATS in the gym to be tested. Year 12/13 students not being tested should head to their block/tutor room. Year 11 students will be advised during the day when to attend the ATS for their tests.

Year 12 and 13 students who have consented for testing should head straight to the ATS in the gym for immediate testing. Students not being tested in Years 12 and 13, and all Year 11 should head to their blocks/tutor rooms in I block, as they would have done in the Autumn term, and then on to Period 1. Year 11 students will be advised during the day when to attend the ATS for their tests.

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 should arrive at school at the usual time. Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 should head to their blocks/tutor rooms, while Year 10 students who have consented for testing should head straight to the ATS in the gym to be tested. Year 10 students not being tested should head to their block/tutor room in D block. Year 7 students will be advised during the day when to attend the ATS for their tests.

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March all students should arrive at school at the usual time. Years 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 should head to their blocks/tutor rooms, while Year 9 students who have consented for testing should head straight to the ATS in the gym to be tested. Year 9 students not being tested should head to their block/tutor room in D block. Year 8 students will be advised during the day when to attend the ATS for their tests.

From Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March all students should attend school as normal and the process of second testing will begin, the grid below outlines this:

**Days in School** (highlighted days for testing – test 1, test 2, test 3)

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar
	7	7	7	7
		8	8	8
		9	9	9
	10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11	11
12	12	12	12	12
13	13	13	13	13

Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar
7	7	7	7	Catch up testing for students not having had their three.
8	8	8	8	
9	9	9	9	
10	10	10	10	
11	11	11	11	
12	12	12	12	
13	13	13	13	

To aid with testing I have put together a short video that walks you through the testing process and I would encourage you to watch it on our You Tube channel at this link: <https://youtu.be/AdKGBxeYeTI>

### **Testing at home**

Once consenting students have received their third test, they will be sent home with a home testing pack to commence testing twice weekly from home. Each pack contains 7 tests, and we would advise that tests are taken on Sundays and Wednesdays each week. We anticipate providing you with more tests once the first 7 have been used. I shall write to you again once we start sending these tests out with more operational detail.

### **Family Testing Kits**

From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Please see our website for more details on this via this [link](#).

### **Additional COVID 19 control measures**

All control measures in operation last term remain in place but in addition the Government have also advised that masks/face coverings should be worn in class until Easter at the very least. Therefore, in addition to our current protocols of masks/face coverings been worn while travelling to and from school on public transport and while moving around school between lessons, students should now wear a mask/face covering in lessons too. Students can remove them when eating at break and lunch and when outside on the playground. Masks/face coverings will not need to be worn in PE lessons. While I recognise that students will see this as an inconvenience, please encourage them to abide by this guidance, it is only for 19 days, I hope.

Further information and details about all our COVID 19 arrangements can be found on our website at <https://www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk/Page/Detail/covid-19> where a copy of this letter can be found as well as links to videos on LFD testing protocols and additional details on our return plans including an updated Risk Assessment.

Finally, it leaves me to thank you all for your unwavering support in these recent very challenging times. We cannot wait to welcome students back to Hagley from next week. There is no doubt that challenges will remain, and we will need to support students in resetting after such a long period away from the classroom, working to recover any lost learning and ensure that every child is supported to make at least expected progress. Your continued support in meeting these challenges will be integral and I thank you again in advance of this.

With every good wish, prayer and blessing.

Yours sincerely



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