

5th March 2021

Dear families

Thank you for your support during lockdown. It hasn't been a pleasant time and I have been saddened to learn of so many family bereavements. I hope that the idea of returning to school on Monday has lifted the spirits of the students and we are very much looking forward to seeing them. My update to the students is copied below for your interest and I would be grateful if you could please reiterate the guidance regarding wearing facemasks in lessons and in social spaces. This is something that we are all simply going to have to learn to get used to and let us hope that it is only for a short period of time.

Best wishes

Nicholas Griffith

Dear year 13

I hope it has been a good week. We are all very much looking forward to seeing you all on Monday morning 😊

A letter was sent to your parents confirming plans for the mocks and if you have any questions at this point then please do email me and I will try to arrange a Teams year group meeting next week to go through things.

A quick reminder of the plans for your return to school is copied below.

- Please visit a local centre to get a covid lateral flow test on Sunday. In the case of a positive result please email me as soon as possible.
- You could also visit the centre for a test on Monday morning if you have time - some of you don't have a lesson until 12.00 so that would work well.
- Lessons for Monday are copied below. Your House Mentor will issue you a new timetable on Monday afternoon in LC time.
- If you want your timetable before then they are on a table in my office so please come and help yourself.

Monday	8th March	week A					
1 - 8.30	2 - 9.30	3 - 11.00	4 - 12.00	LUNCH	LC - 2.00	6 - 2.15	7 - 3.15
	13B/Ar1a	13B/Ar1b	13C/Bs1		13BRO/Rg	13D/Bi1b	13C/Mu1a
	MV26 Mr Madonna	SGH MV21	H13 Mrs Houghton		EN IC11	S4 Miss McCone	DJB W14
	13B/Ch1a	13B/Ch1b	13C/Gg1b		13BUT/Rg	13D/Dt1b	13C/Pe1b
	S3 Mr Traynor	CHTS1	H12 Mr Griffith		JGH S13	IC1 Mr Jones	SJH GB7
	13B/Fm1a	13B/Fm1a	13C/Ma1a		13HRD/Rg	13D/Ec1	13C/Ph1b
	C8 Mrs Bibby	JLB MV3	G1 Mr Daly		PAC IC3	C8 Mr Leeder	PG S11
	13B/Ma1a	13B/Ma1b	13C/Mu1b		13HSN/Rg	13D/EI1b	
	C16 Mr Daly	GM MV2	W12 Mrs Clark		EH W10	W10 Mr Barnicoat	
	13B/Me1a	13B/Me1b	13C/Pe1a		13SCH/Rg	13D/Gp1b	
	C17 Dr Atkins	GPW W10	W10 Mrs Achilleos		GPW IC12	G2 Mrs Hutchinson	
			13C/Ph1a		13SEL/Rg	13D/Ma1a	
			S13 Mrs Diamond		JEH G2	MV13 Mrs Bibby	
			13C/Sp1a			13D/Ph1b	
			H1 Mrs Gimeno			S13 Mrs Diamond	

A key difference on our return relates to the use of face masks and I have copied details below which were sent to families on Wednesday.

Please be clear that students who do not follow this clear guidance and who do not have an exemption will see removal of privileges such as the option to leave school before 4.15.

These rules will be in place to protect you and your families.

The use of face masks

The government has announced that new advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff, pupils and students in schools in England.

“Where pupils and students in year 7 and above are educated, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff, pupils and students when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils and students when outdoors on the premises.

In addition, we now also recommend that in those settings where pupils and students in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms and during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.”

Therefore, in addition to our established routines of the wearing of face masks in the secondary phase in communal areas and corridors we will be expecting pupils in Years 7 to 13 to wear a face mask in classrooms where social distance cannot be maintained. This will be reviewed at Easter.

Pupils who have a medical exemption, a special educational needs exemption or an exemption on mental health grounds (including heightened anxiety) will not be expected to wear a face mask during lesson time. We are already aware of some pupils who are exempt, but if your child should also be exempt, please email your child’s House Administrator with the details. This applies to all pupils in Years 7 to 13.

Please ensure that your child has at least two facemasks each day. When not in use facemasks should be placed in a resealable plastic bag. Pupils must learn not to touch the outside of their masks and to change it when it becomes damp. Disposable facemasks must be placed in the black bins, which are situated around the campus both outside and in the classrooms. Pupils must wash hands or use hand gel after touching their masks.

Further, we recognise the challenge and potential communication barriers for pupils being taught by a teacher wearing a face mask. The power of a teacher's facial gestures in engaging with pupils is not to be underestimated. Therefore, we will be advising our teachers to endeavour to maintain social distancing in classrooms so that they are able to remove their face masks when group teaching from the front of the classroom.

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Griffith