



Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear Families

Further information about our full return to school

We are very excited at the prospect of seeing our students back here with us next week. My apologies to everyone for the amount of detail in today's letter, but I feel it is unavoidable. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend my talk this evening explaining the decisions set out in this letter: if so, you will be familiar with much of the contents.

Dates for return

Date	
Friday 5th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 6th Form students Test Round 1 (attend only for an appointment)● Students attending the in-school provision (e.g. keyworker children) Test Round 1
Monday 8th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Y10 and Y11 students come to site for testing appointments only● All lessons continue online● In-school provision e.g. for keyworkers continues on-site
Tuesday 9th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All staff return to school● Y10 and Y11 students return to lessons in school (Arrive for 08:30 on the front playground)● Y7-Y9 & 6th Form lessons continue online (staff teach from school)● Y7-Y9 students come to site for testing appointments only● KS3 Keyworker provision continues in school
Wednesday 10th March onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All students are back in lessons (arrive for 08:30)● Round 2 & 3 testing begins (timetable tbc) - with minimum 3 day gap between tests.

Test appointments

We are very pleased by the response to our survey seeking consent for the lateral flow tests. From having relatively few responses, we now have over 670 which is excellent and makes the process much more valuable.

We would like students to come to school at the times listed below for their form group and to come to **the back gate** by the Cricketers' and Elm Tree pubs on Prospect Row. They will queue down the side of the school by Melbourne Place with 2 metres between each student and enter the Gym by one external fire door, exit by the other and then leave by the front gates and go straight home. It is really important that there is no congregating during or after these appointments. I am also sorry



that we can't have parents on-site for these appointments. If you do need to wait for your son or daughter we suggest you do so - keeping distance from one another - on Parker's Piece.

Students are not expected to wear school uniform when they attend these appointments. We will email parents with a negative result as soon as we are able to, which is likely to be around an hour after the test. If anyone receives a positive result then we will call and talk through the next steps.

Once students return to school we will then arrange the second and third rounds of testing. We will update everyone next week about the distribution of home test kits for use once the three rounds of testing at school have taken place.

If you have not signed up to give consent yet, you can still do so: [Click here to sign the consent form.](#) Of course, there is no compulsion to take part in these tests and I should also remind you that you may withdraw your consent by contacting us should you wish.

6th Form students have already been invited to attend for a test at 9 am tomorrow, Friday 5th March, unless they have arranged a different time individually.

Monday 8th March		
Period	Time	Group
1	08:30	10PN
1	09:00	10PS
2	09:30	10PE
2	10:00	10PW
3	10:45	11PN
3	11:10	11PS
4	11:30	11PE
4	12:00	11PW
Tuesday 9th March		
Period	Number of students	Year group
1	08:30	7PN
1	09:00	7PS
2	09:30	7PE
2	10:00	7PW
3	10:45	8PN
3	11:10	8PS
4	11:30	8PE
4	12:00	8PW
5	13:20	9PN
5	13:45	9PS
6	14:10	9PE
6	14:40	9PW



Face coverings

As students return to school the strong expectation is that all students will wear a face covering apart from physical activities (PE), eating/drinking in the dining hall and when outdoors. The expectation to wear a face covering now includes lessons, unless students have an exemption.

We're aware that it is not ideal to be wearing a face covering during lessons and hope that this will not be needed for long. These measures are an expectation in all secondary schools in line with the [Government guidance](#). While there is some difference of opinion on this measure within our community, I would like everyone to bear in mind that it is unlikely that schools would be returning in full next week without this additional level of controls in place. I know that there is genuine excitement and relief at the prospect of coming back to school and the temporary measure of wearing a face covering in lessons is the additional condition we have been asked to put in place to enable this to happen.

Whilst some families have queried whether this is a necessary measure, I would like everyone to consider that face coverings are primarily for the benefit of reducing the chance of transmission to others and we do have students whose families are vulnerable to the virus and who have not yet been vaccinated. My belief is that the path of caution at this moment remains the most sensible one and I thank you in advance for thinking about the needs of all students and their families by wearing a face covering indoors wherever social distancing cannot be maintained, including classrooms. Our staff will also find additional reassurance through this measure.

We will have line-ups at the start of each day for Years 7-9 and on the first day back for Years 10-11. As students enter one group at a time we will check that everyone has a face covering and we will provide one to any student who has forgotten theirs. On subsequent days there will be spare face coverings available at the Mud Lane entrance for Years 10-11.

If you have a medical reason as to why your son or daughter should be exempt from wearing a face covering and we do not already know about this, please email [Kate Craddock](mailto:kcraddock@cap.education) (kcraddock@cap.education) as soon as possible. We will issue a lanyard to these students so that staff are clear about who is exempt and can still access the classroom without a face covering.

Beyond exemptions, should families wish their child to return to school and not wear a face covering then we will need to make alternative arrangements for them and I will need you to contact me please: cmorrison@cap.education. I do hope that this won't be necessary and that we can make the best of this situation in the hope that the additional measures around the wearing of face coverings will be for a period of three weeks only, the plan being to remove this requirement after the Easter holidays.

End to remote learning



The return to school is for all students and all students are expected to attend. Our remote learning programme in its current form will therefore come to an end, though some parts of lessons will be shared via Google Meet for students who are self-isolating or are in a period of quarantine.

Risk Assessment

An updated version of our risk assessment is available [by clicking here](#).

Constant consideration - the importance of lessons without disruption

We enjoy a very good standard of behaviour on the whole at Parkside, but recent surveys of students and staff continue to tell us that too many lessons suffer from some form of low-level disruption. Whether this is interrupting the teacher or talking to others when they should be working, it may not seem serious on the face of things, but the effect is too much time lost to disruption when everyone should be able to learn. This is particularly important given the amount of time we have lost from our studies in school.

We will be visiting lessons during every period to assist should any student need to be removed from the lesson due to disruptive behaviour.

I will be reminding all of our students of the importance of being considerate to one another by not disrupting learning and using the warnings given to adapt what they are doing, which should avoid the need for us to remove students from lessons.

Uniform

I would like to remind families that all students need to return to school next week for their lessons [in full, correct uniform](#). We made great progress with this earlier in the year and it really helps to create a sense of pride and belonging in the school and our students look great!

Students should continue to come into school in their PE kit on any day when they have a PE or Dance lesson.

We were asked before Christmas to allow students to wear coats in lessons where the temperature was cold and for this to be a matter of choice for students. Unfortunately, whilst this was fine on the whole, some students continued to wear coats when the temperature was not an issue and there was also a noticeable increase in non-uniform items being worn.

As the weather and the temperature will now continue to improve we will ask that students do not wear coats in classes without first requesting permission from the teacher and that this should only happen where the open windows or doors are leading to low temperatures. Students should be able to wear extra layers if it is cold and I please ask that on cold days they come to school wearing extra layers underneath their uniform.



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Year 11 and 13 assessments

I hope to write again to families with students in these year groups with further information about a timeline for assessments and how we plan to approach these either tomorrow or on Monday.

Thank you for your support of Parkside in all its forms over the last term - indeed the last very eventful year. It has made all the difference. We look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Yours sincerely

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