

Our Ref: LTM/kmd/Marchreturn

24 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer



Re: Initial Planning for Students Return to School

I hope that you and your family are well and were able to make the most of what was a very unusual half term, most importantly that all students took a well-deserved break from their studies. We have a busy few weeks ahead of us where we hope to be able to finalise arrangements for the remainder of the year and look forward to everyone's continued efforts to ensure that everyone across the school community are fully supported.

Following the Government's update on Monday, students will start to return to school from Monday, 8th March. This initial communication gives a general overview of how this will happen and covers several areas you should be aware of. We will be forwarding further detail shortly.

1. **A phased return for students across the week.** For those students who have consent, Government guidance states that students should only return to 'face to face' lessons following a negative Lateral Flow Test which will be administered in school. This means that to manage the testing program we will need to stagger students return; their first day in school will be on the date given below:

Monday, 8 th March	Year 11 & Year 12/13
Tuesday, 9 th March	Year 10
Wednesday, 10 th March	Year 9
Thursday, 11 th March	Year 8
Friday, 12 th March	Year 7

When students arrive on their first day of return, they will be supervised in a controlled area before receiving their test. Once a negative result is returned students will be allowed to return to their normal lessons for the remainder of that day; in subsequent days they will follow their normal timetable. Where students do not have consent for a test to be administered, in line with government guidelines these students will be reintegrated back into lessons during the morning.

Those students in the 6th form who do not use school transport are asked to report to the East Reception for 1:00pm on Monday, 8th where they will be collected and tests administered in the afternoon. These students should ensure they have eaten their lunch before their arrival. Those that arrive on school transport should report directly to the Library area where they will be supervised on arrival in the morning.

2. **Lateral Flow Testing.** Students will initially be offered up to three Lateral Flow Tests during the first two weeks of their return. On their first day of return students will be directed to the Sports Hall which provides a COVID secure environment while students are tested and results processed. During this time students will receive a number of updates from key staff and be provided with activities to complete. Once a test returns a negative result, students will be returned to their normal lessons. Should a positive test be returned then an individual will be isolated, and parents contacted to collect as a matter of urgency.

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CEO: Mrs Sarah Godden
T: 01746 760509
c/o: Oldbury Wells School

Headteacher: Mr Lee Tristham
Oldbury Wells, Bridgnorth
Shropshire, WV16 5JD
01746 765454
school@oldburywells.com



For those student who have not yet been given consent, please follow the link to the consent form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2s8TOK9SpUy44yMVeXcKuuUDtb9yViVDk0J2RewpOS1UNU1MSTc4V0JFVUg0T0hFTIRVUjNKTIILVy4u>

(Please note that the registration will close at midnight on Tuesday, 2nd March; we will only be able to test students who have registered at this stage).

For further information on testing please follow link to our website:

<http://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/covid-update>

Following testing in school, we will be able to supply students with Self Testing Kits which can be used at home under the supervision of parents/carers. We will be sending further updates on how this will work; students will be asked to test twice a week (on a Monday and Thursday evening) throughout the weeks ahead.

3. **Attendance to school.** Attendance in school for all student is mandatory from the published date of their return. Any students who are not able to attend school due to illness should contact the school under the normal arrangements.
4. **Transport.** All school transport will be fully operational from Monday, 8th March to support students across the week. Students are reminded of the need to wear a face covering while on school transport and to sit in their previously allocated seat.
5. **COVID Secure.** We will be sending all parents reminders about control measures in school and requirements of all students. Students are expected to actively support social distancing, regularly hand sanitise and use a face covering at all times when on school site. The Government have now advised that in addition to wearing a face covering around the school site, students are expected to wear a face covering within all lessons. The Government will review this at Easter when regulations may be further updated.
6. **Supporting students working from home until they return to school.** From Monday 8th March, for those students working from home, work will continue to be provided via Satchel One. We will however no longer provide a live element to lessons to allow staff to support students in school and manage supervision of returning year groups.
7. **Finally.** We are responding quickly to all requirements in school and will be sending out further information shortly. We know that as parents you will have many questions but we are confident that all students will successfully re-engage within school.

Can I thank you, as always, for your support. I know that there will be more detail you will be keen to see, although hopefully these headlines give an overview of our current planning; we look forward to welcoming everyone back into school.



Lee Tristham
Headteacher

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