



23rd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I was delighted to listen to the Prime Minister state last night that schools can reopen from the 8th March. Whilst I am pleased with how our students have adapted to full synchronous learning for the duration of this national lockdown there is no replacement for school based learning.

As with previous announcements regarding the reopening of schools we receive the information at the same time as you do and then we receive subsequent information from the Department for Education (DfE) with guidance to use to open schools safely.

There were a number of DfE updates released last night but the main three are:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mass-testing-for-secondary-pupils-as-all-schools-and-colleges-fully-reopenfrom8-march>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/958906/Restricting_attendance_during_the_national_lockdown_schools_guidance.pdf

As a school we will spend today digesting the documents, then working through our scenario planning to communicate our finalised plans by Monday 1st March at the latest.

On initial review the three major changes within this guidance are:

- Face covering expectations - Face coverings were previously mandatory for pupils and adults in indoor communal areas of secondary schools. However, the DfE is now stating face coverings “should be worn in classrooms or 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”. As such students will need at least two face coverings for the day ahead and as the weather is improving we will be using our outdoor spaces more to enable students to have time without masks on. Until Easter students will wear face coverings in the school buildings whilst moving and within classroom settings. Face shields should not be worn.
- Mass testing - Returning secondary pupils will be tested three times on site and then again once at home in the first two weeks after reopening. They will then be provided with home kits for twice weekly testing thereafter. During the week of March 8, pupils will only be expected to return following their first negative test result. As such the Government are allowing schools to have a one week phased return to enable mass testing to take place from the week of the 8th March giving priority to years 10 – 13. As a school we will give parents allocated times as soon as possible on when your child should attend for their test, tour and meet with their form tutor as part of this phased return. Once we have a confirmed first negative test those students can remain in school from the following day. There will be further subsequent tests between 3 and 5 days apart and then we understand home testing will then begin for all students and staff. **If you *did not* return the consent form for your**

child to take part in the testing programme in January, please complete and return the attached form to covidconsent@kls.herts.sch.uk by no later than Friday 26/02/2021.

- Curriculum expectations and guidance for specialist subjects – There remains within this guidance the expectations that the “curriculum remains broad and ambitious. All pupils continue to be taught a wide range of subjects, maintaining their choices for further study and employment.” As such we will be moving students back to specialist bases through the use of a new one way system and the use of face coverings whilst moving around the school building.

I have been delighted with the support we have had from our parent community over this lockdown. As parents will know from my letters I have a dream where we do not give out any sanction and can celebrate and commend all students for being well prepared and driven to succeed at school. In order to do this we need our students to have the basics in place to succeed. Please can parents and students work through the list below to ensure they are school ready for the return in just under 9 school days time:

- ✓ Check school uniform still fits and all items are per school policy - <https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/School-Uniform-May-2020.pdf>
- ✓ Check school shoes still fit and are clean
- ✓ Check your PE kit still fits and is packed ready for the necessary day
- ✓ Check you have a number of reusable face masks and resealable bags to store them in during periods of the day
- ✓ Check you have all the necessary equipment is as per school policy
- ✓ <https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Equipment-List.pdf>
- ✓ Collect all exercise books and ensure you have them ready for the days ahead
- ✓ Collect any text books issued over the lockdown period ready to bring back to school
- ✓ When released read the student guidance document especially the new one way system
- ✓ Plan your week ahead using the Team Satchel timetable app SMHW
- ✓ Ensure you have a waterproof jacket and/or umbrella

Finally, as part of our planning we now need staff to prepare their learning areas for a return in just over 9 school days time. As such each faculty will spend one day in school preparing for the return of students and having lateral flow tests on site. We will stagger this and members of staff will support live at the start of the lesson to set the work and expectations and then all students should submit work at the end of the lesson period. The following dates are when each faculty will do this and also receive their lateral flow testing on site:

Wed 24th February 2021	Communications Faculty (English and MFL)
Thu 25th February 2021	Science Faculty
Fri 26th February 2021	Maths Faculty
Mon 1st March 2021	Arts Faculty (Art/Drama/Music) and PE Faculty
Tues 2nd March 2021	Humanities (RE, History Geography) and Technology, Computer Science

As stated earlier, I will send a more detailed letter shortly along with student guidance documents and expectations for how we will ensure a safe and effective return to school from the 8th March as part of a phased return that week.

Once again thank you for your on-going support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Fisher', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Mr D. Fisher
Headteacher