

Our reference: SMCLET19/lh

2nd March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carers

We are writing to you with some further information about the return of students to school. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back to face-to-face learning but due to the size of our school we will need to do this in a phased manner in order to allow us to test up to 600 students per day in addition to the normal day-to-day activities in the school. As a result of this, we will be asking students to come in a day earlier than originally stated in our previous letter in order to take a lateral flow test in school and then return home; this will need to happen 3 times during the first 10 days.

Please see below the phased return plan for students which starts this Friday (5th March) for Year 11 and Sixth Form.

	Year groups required to come in and test and then return home	Year groups in school for normal lessons
Fri 5th March	Year 11 and Sixth Form	
Mon 8th March	Year 7 and 10	Year 11 and Sixth Form
Tues 9th March	Year 8 and 9	Year 7, 10, 11 and Sixth Form
Weds 10th March	Year 11 and Sixth Form	Year 7, 8, 9 and 10
Thurs 11th March	Year 7 and 10	Year 8, 9, 11 and Sixth Form
Fri 12th March	Year 8 and 9	Year 7, 10, 11 and Sixth Form
Mon 15th March	Year 11 and Sixth Form	Year 7, 8, 9 and 10
Tues 16th March	Year 7 and 10	Year 8, 9, 11 and Sixth Form
Weds 17th March	Year 8 and 9	Year 7, 10, 11 and Sixth Form
Thurs 18th March onwards		All years up to Easter

For the year groups required to come in and test and then return home, students should attend school **only** for their lateral flow test time slot (these will be issued from tomorrow) and then return straight home avoiding any unnecessary gathering in the community. Please allow for students to be on site for up to an hour as they may have to wait before and after taking the test. Students are not required to wear uniform on their test day, but must be dressed smartly and appropriately for entering the school site.

Please be reminded that students should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- have coronavirus symptoms or has tested positive
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive
- are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

Participation in this lateral flow testing programme is voluntary, however, in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus within our local community, we hope that you will give your consent for your child to participate. If you have yet to complete the consent form, please do so as a matter of urgency, a link to the individual year group consent forms is on the CCHS website. If you have previously given consent for your child, you do not have to do so again.

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If you do not consent to your child participating in asymptomatic testing, you should still complete the consent form and they should attend school as usual in line with our phased return arrangements above and will need to remain at home on the testing days.

If your child has received a positive result following a PCR test within the last 90 days, they do not need to participate in this testing programme. If this is the case, please forward a copy of their test result to the school via admin@cchs.school. Please note that on the day your child's year group is scheduled to be tested they should remain at home and only attend on the day their year group is scheduled to be in school for normal lessons as per the table above.

If your child cannot attend for the scheduled testing day for their year group then they will need to complete a lateral flow test in the community. For Tendring this is at *Long Meadows Community Centre, Long Meadows, Dovercourt, CO12 4US*. Bookings for this site can be made online [via the Essex County Council website](#)

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) students and medical needs

In line with the latest government guidance, students who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) should not attend school. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice; if you have not already done so, please provide the school with a copy of your child's shielding letter. A new Google classroom will be created for any child who is CEV so they can access the relevant work.

For any students who have medical needs, please inform us if there has been any changes to their medical needs over the partial school closure period so healthcare plans can be updated where required.

Loaned devices

If your child borrowed a device to use for their school work during the lockdown period, please can they return this on the testing date so that the school can return all of our computer based classrooms to full stock ready for lessons in school.

Safety measures

We have always done, and will continue to do, everything we can to make sure our students can return to school safely. From 8th March, we will be taking the following protective measures:

- All students will wear a face covering in **all** indoor areas.
- All of our control measures initiated in September will continue, including separate entrances; staggered break and lunch; year group bubbles; separate social spaces; regular hand washing or sanitising; wearing P.E kits on days that students have P.E; ventilated rooms and corridors; staggered finish times; reminder posters about hand washing, mask wearing and "Catch It, Bin It, Kill It!".
- Assemblies will continue virtually and will be a vehicle for delivering key messages to students.

Face coverings

We know that the predominant new variant of coronavirus (COVID-19) is more transmissible and as a result of this, Public Health England have recommended the use of face coverings in all inside areas (including classrooms where 2m distancing cannot be maintained). This guidance is due to be reviewed at Easter. If for any reason a student is not able to wear a face covering, this must be agreed with the school before their return and a pass will be issued to them. Face coverings will be at the discretion of individual teachers for indoor PE, Dance and Drama lessons depending on the level of physical exertion and social distancing.

Uniform and equipment

To continue the good work of the first term, we will expect all students to return fully equipped and in full school uniform. In addition to their pencil case and lesson equipment, please ensure your child has a face covering (and a spare), a water bottle and a bag large enough to carry A4 size books. Students may wear layers under their school shirt to keep warm or may wear a school jumper under their blazer to help keep them warm. If you have any problem with access to full uniform in readiness for school full return, please email admin@cchs.school so we can assist. Please be reminded of our requirement for school trousers and office style school shoes as per the website. Hair colour will also need to be a natural colour and facial piercings are not permitted.

We would like to conclude by thanking you for your support in helping your child learn from home and for the many positive emails that have been sent in during this lockdown period. They are very much appreciated and I hope that we will all be back to the old normal soon. Until then we need to stick to the rules and all play our part in preventing the spread of the virus.

Take care and stay safe,

Sarah McKarry
Head of College

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