



The Chantry School



EXCELLENCE IN ALL | EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

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Dear Parents / Carers

2nd March 2021

We are all very much looking forward to a return to school for pupils from next week, and a return to something nearer normal. There are some challenges to meet over the first couple of weeks as we complete the 3 rapid flow tests required for pupils, but we are confident we will meet these, and then transition pupils to home testing after their 3rd test.

Timetable for Return

We are keeping this simple, and in a rural school with a high reliance on school transport we have decided that we will begin testing from Monday, and not before. We will be able to schedule whole years to test on the same day this way and ensure we get the required 3-5 day gap between tests. This is the recommended gap to catch rising infection in an individual.

Pupils will return to school as follows:

Monday 8th March – Y11

Tuesday 9th March – Y10

Wednesday 10th March – Y9

Thursday 11th March – Y8

Friday 12th March – Y7

School Transport will be running as usual for all pupils from Monday. On arrival at school pupils will be directed to either the Sports Hall to begin testing or to a classroom to await testing. We will inform you about that separately later this week.

Pupils in all year groups currently attending school as critical worker / vulnerable pupils should continue to come in as they have been doing, and the list to request this provision will be sent as usual to those parents. Remote learning will continue for all lessons for pupils who are at home, so there will be continuity of learning over the course of the week.

School Organisation

We will be returning to the arrangements for year groups to be taught in 'bubbles' and for staggered break and lunches. The aim of this, of course, is to minimise the contact between individuals in different year groups. We will maintain our 3 lessons a day timetable for the same reason. Pupils will simply step back into the arrangements that were in place before school closure in December. The following areas are allocated:

Y7 - Upstairs in main building

Y8 - Downstairs in main building, plus Drama

Y9 - Maths

Y10 - Science

Y11 - Humanities

Keeping our Community Safe

There are many measures that we are carrying out, ranging from enhanced cleaning to whole school organisation and have been doing this successfully since September's return. Our risk assessment describes all of these, the current version of which is always available on our website. There are some key measures though that pupils can do that will ensure they play their full part in keeping themselves, their families and those around them in school as safe as possible. The key areas for pupils are:

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Testing – it is excellent to see such a high uptake on this via the consent forms. Part of our role in the next 2 weeks is to educate pupils on how to do this and allow them to practise in the presence of a trained member of staff. This screening opportunity will keep the school community and families safe, and allow as much normal activity as possible as we go forward. If you have consented to testing, it will be very helpful if your child has watched the video on self swabbing here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCqo7MhQT6U>

Masks - The main difference pupils will notice is that Government guidance says they should wear masks in lessons where they are unable to maintain a 2 m distance. Clearly, in many cases this is not possible so there will be a lot of time when masks will be needed. Please ensure that your child has sufficient supply to last the day, bearing in mind they can become wet over time. We recommend at least 2 changes of mask over the course of the day in line with the WHO advice that masks should be changed when they become damp. For this reason, pupils must also have a plastic bag to store their used mask if it is being taken home to be washed, or it should be disposed using the bins provided.

Pupils should now wear their mask in the following situations:

- On the bus, and when waiting for the bus if 2m distance cannot be maintained
- When arriving at and leaving the school site
- During all lessons
- When moving between lessons
- When moving to their social areas
- In canteen queues

Clearly, pupils need some time mask free and this will be during the break times when out of doors. Pupils should though maintain a social distance at this time and if they so choose can of course continue to wear their mask. We realise that this is not going to be a very comfortable experience. However, it is the Government's guidance to enable the opening of schools for all. It will be reviewed by Government at Easter.

Hand Hygiene – Many pupils do carry their own sanitiser, and we encourage all to do so. There is plenty of sanitiser also available in school and we expect pupils to clean their hands as follows:

- On arrival at school
- Arriving at and departing each lesson
- When they put on or remove their mask
- When using catering facilities
- Use of hot water and soap at opportunities throughout the day, i.e. after using the toilet.

We will send you an update of the Pupil Protocol to discuss with your child before the end of the week. Their help and cooperation in playing their individual part is important in supporting the collective effort to keep everyone safe.

Uniform - We realise that pupils are growing and the shops are, in most cases, shut. You may be faced with some difficulty in the first few weeks of return. We simply ask that pupils attend in as much uniform that fits, any substitutes are the closest possible match and that you make your child's Year Head aware of any problems. Hopefully, any problems with getting uniform can be quickly resolved as the shops begin to open up.

The measures that we have in place to keep pupils and staff safe were working very well in the Autumn term. With the added protection of testing and masks, I do believe we have everything possible in place for a successful return. We look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely



Andy Dickenson
Headteacher