



25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Following the most recent update from the Prime Minister on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, when he announced the full re-opening of schools across England from the 8<sup>th</sup> March, I wanted to provide more of the detail behind the reported headlines to clarify the situation as we currently know it. The following is a brief explanation of the actions being taken at Lacon Childe School to ensure a smooth and safe return for all students. Further, very detailed information, like that provided in September, will follow next week.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, all primary aged children will return to school. Secondary schools will initiate a phased and controlled return for students during the week of the 8<sup>th</sup>, so that a full return for all students can be secured for 15<sup>th</sup> March. This is to accommodate schools' attempts to conduct testing of all students for whom they have consent to test.

**Lateral Flow Device Asymptomatic Testing (voluntary):**

We are required to provide and administer 3 tests of our students (with consent) during the first few weeks on return. This is to provide them with the ability to self-test using home testing kits after the 3<sup>rd</sup> test is done in school. Any student whose parent/carer has given consent to test will receive testing kits following their 3<sup>rd</sup> school test. This will mean that testing in school, after the 3<sup>rd</sup> test, will only be provided to those students who, for whatever reason, are unable to use the home testing kits. It is at this point that we are hoping to completely focus on the education of our students without any added distraction of testing.

Thank you if you have already returned your consent to testing form. We have re-sent this form via ParentMail to parents/carers for whom we have had no reply. If you wish to give consent to your child being tested, these forms need to be returned by **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at the latest**.

**On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Year 11** students should return to school. Those we have consent to test will be tested before joining their class in the morning if they have a negative test. They will remain in school from the 8<sup>th</sup> to continue with their Key Stage 4 examination courses. However, they will return home at **1.45pm** to allow for a full staff meeting to go through the arrangements for the rest of the term. Transport will be provided as usual. Years 7-10 will continue with online lessons for Periods 1-4, no Period 5 on this day. There will be break and a short 15-minute lunch and limited catering will be available.

**On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, all Year 10** students will return to school. Those we have consent to test will be tested and then return to their normal classes. KS3 groups will continue with online learning.

**On Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup>, students in Year 7** will return to school and those we have consent to test will be tested and, if negative, will return to their class. Year 8 and Year 9 will continue with online learning.

**On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Year 8 and Year 9** should return to school. Those given consent to be tested will be and then return to normal lessons. Everyone else will be in lessons in school.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> round of testing will take place during a normal school day. This will, of course, cause a great deal of disruption, which we hope to manage effectively with the support and collaboration of our students. These testing dates will be:

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March : Year 11
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March : Year 10 and Year 7
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March : Year 8 and Year 9
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March : Year 11 (finished testing)
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March : Year 10 and Year 7 (finished testing)
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March : Year 8 and Year 9 (finished testing)

Following the final round of testing for each Year Group, the students will receive home testing kits and details of how to register their test results online. Please remember that the testing of your children is voluntary and can only be done with children under the age of 16 with your consent. Please make it clear to your children that you have given consent and would like them to be tested in school. Further information about home testing will be sent out later.

#### **Face coverings:**

The following is the guidance we have received from the Department for Education.

***“Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances Where pupils in year 7 (which would be children who were aged 11 on 31 August 2020) and above are educated, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils when outdoors on the premises. In addition, we now also recommend in those schools, that 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.***

***We are taking this additional precautionary measure for a limited time during this period of high coronavirus (COVID-19) prevalence in the community. These measures will be in place until Easter. As with all measures, we will keep it under review and update guidance at that point.”***

Staff who can maintain safe social distancing in the classroom will not have to wear a face covering. If your child is unable to wear a face covering and can be classified as exempt, please contact school immediately to inform us.

Face coverings do not have to be used when outside the school buildings.

Face coverings must be worn on school transport as was the case last term.

We will be providing much more detailed information next week. Please ensure that your children are aware of the guidance and expectations we are having to put in place for their return. We are looking forward to seeing all students back in school as quickly as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact members of our school team should you require any further information.

Stay safe, stay healthy and take care.

With regards,

Darren Reynolds : Headteacher