

2 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

## Arrangements For Your Child's Return To School – Year 9

Further to my letter dated Thursday 25 February, please find included below specific details for your child's return to school. Whilst students are returning to school home learning will be continuing however the teacher component will be suspended from week beginning Monday 8 March.

### Lateral Flow Testing

Testing for your child's year group will take place on Thursday 11 March from 09.30 – 12.30. In order to reduce the time your child needs to wait we will be operating three sessions. Depending on your child's tutor group, they should attend at the following times:

Time	Form Groups
09.30 – 10.30	Alder, Beech, Cedar & Elm
10.30 – 11.30	Fir, Holly & Maple
11.30 – 12.30	Oak, Poplar & Rowan

All students should arrive via the main student entrance on Elsa Road. Students will be directed to the Hard Court to wait before being called to complete their Lateral Flow Test in the Sports Hall. Students receive a card that explains how they register via the NHS in order to get their test result. The school will only communicate to parent/carers if there is a positive result. Once students have completed their test, they will exit the Sports Hall and leave the school via the student entrance on Berwick Road.

Once students have completed their test, they should go straight home. Lessons for the day will be on Google Classroom and as their classroom teacher will not be live, students can complete lessons throughout the day. Students should wear school uniform for their test and are reminded that they represent Welling School on their way to and home from school.

Some parent/carers have expressed concerns about their child administering a Lateral Flow Test. I do understand your concerns. When we introduced on site testing for staff and students who were accessing the school provision we were not sure what to expect. However, from my personal experience, I know the tests are not as bad as you might think. Putting the swab in your mouth or nose, whilst not enjoyable, does not hurt. There are also trained staff who are able to offer further support for students if they require. We also know that Lateral Flow Tests are an important way of making our school safer for the whole community and by students playing their part, every one of us will benefit. If you are still concerned I strongly encourage you to contact the school to discuss further.

If you have not done so already, the consent form linked below needs to be completed before students are able to have a test.

[www.wellingschool-tkat.org](http://www.wellingschool-tkat.org)

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<https://forms.gle/D8LpbT1aFFkQHKFF8>

A reminder that parent/carers should give their consent on behalf of their child.

If you do not consent for your son/daughter to be tested, please do not send them to school on Thursday 11 March. They should return on Friday 12 March.

### **Return To School**

Your child's year group will return to school on Friday 12 March. Form time will not be taking so your child needs to arrive at school between 08.45 – 08.55 on Friday. There will be a normal school finish at 14.55. Students should access the school site via the entrance they were using in the autumn term. Senior members of staff will be on the gate to welcome students back.

During this week students will complete a mix of activities with their Form Tutor and subject teachers. There will also be a year group assembly. We will be extending the morning break, giving students 45 minutes. Additional outdoor space will also be made available for year groups.

By Monday 15 March all year groups will have returned to school and we will follow the normal school day. Students will complete a number of sessions with their Form Tutor which will be during period 1 on Monday 15 March, period 5 on Tuesday 16 March and period 5 on Wednesday 17 March.

### **Face Coverings**

This week the Government has sent out updated guidance regarding the wearing of face coverings in school. Before the Christmas break all students were wearing a face covering, unless they had an exemption card, in communal areas inside the school. The guidance has now been extended and it says "face coverings should be worn in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained."

This means that face coverings are mandatory for staff and students outside the classroom (when inside the building) and in classrooms. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.

Similarly to the Autumn term, it is not compulsory for students to wear a face covering if parent/carers have contacted the school and the student has an exemption card. If the school is not aware of a child's circumstances we will follow up if they are not wearing a face covering. To help make sure all students have a face covering the school has purchased one reusable face covering which will be given to each child when they return to school. It is the responsibility of parent/carers to make sure their child has a face covering but we hope this action will be helpful.

We continue to face a number of unknowns but we are confident that we have a reopening plan that is achievable. Students should expect to see the same control measures that were in place during the autumn term and these will be shared again with students. If you have further questions following this letter please contact your child's Head of Year or Care & Guidance Assistant. You can also contact the school on [enquiries@wellingschool-tkat.org](mailto:enquiries@wellingschool-tkat.org) and your email will be directed to the appropriate person.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to Welling School and supporting them as they make the transition back to school.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully



**Mr R Pett**

Headteacher