

26th February 2021

Dear families

As always, I hope you are well and keeping safe?

You will no doubt be aware that on Monday this week our Prime Minister made an announcement to the nation regarding the Government's phased 'roadmap' plan to return us to post pandemic normal. The exciting and long-awaited news for schools is that all school age children will be returning to face-to-face learning as the first phase of the plan on March 8th.

Safety remains the priority.

For staff and students, March 8th can't come quick enough as we are all so very keen to get back and re-connect to each other again but everything we do still has to be as safe as it possibly can be. A significant change in the safety instructions provided by central government at the end of this lockdown is that schoolchildren in classes and all staff in schools are to wear masks at all times, at least until the next phase of return to normality at the end of March.

Please do make it explicitly clear to your child that they must wear a mask whilst they are in the school building. It is essential for everyone's safety that they do and unless there is a medical/ health related reason why individual students can't wear masks around the school site, students may well be sent home if they choose not to comply with these expectations. I am looking forward to warmly welcoming back every student to school from the beginning of March 8th onwards but I hope as parents you can see that we have to adopt a zero tolerance approach here for the small minority that might feel that wearing a mask is not important to them.

As we did in September, students will be taught in social distanced bubbles which gives individual year groups their own floor on the school site and students will again stay in situ with teachers moving around to teach them in line with the timetable.

All students will be asked to sanitise their hands on entry to any new space when they arrive.

Students will obviously be able to remove their masks at lunchtime whilst they're eating but they will be socially distanced throughout this time.

Students will be asked to remain socially distanced at break times and lunch and as they arrive and leave the school building at the beginning and the end of the school day.

Students whose families have provided permission, by returning the issued permission slip, will be tested when they return to school by the school's Testing Team before they begin their lessons on their first day. The school will repeat this test weekly up to the Easter Holidays. Families will then be expected to carry out these weekly tests at home at the start of the Summer term. As Mr Raw's sections states below, I strongly encourage parents to provide us with the permission to carry out these first on site tests if you haven't already but, if you choose not to, it is essential your child strictly obeys all other safety conditions whilst they remain on site. Please do feel free to contact the school and speak with your child's Head of House if you seek further assurances here.

Phased return approach from March 8th

I have to say a resounding 'well done' to Mr Raw who has put together a detailed plan for our phased return for all year groups spanning the five days from March 8th. Please see Mr Raw's section below for more details of when your child will be expected to return to school.

From Mr Raw - Return To School: Arrangements for a Staggered Start

YEAR	DAY	ARRIVAL	LFT TEST	ASSEMBLY	LESSONS
11	Monday	8:15am - 8:30am	8:45am -10:45am	Period 3: 11:00am	11:30am onwards
8	Tuesday	8:00am - 8:15am	8:45am -10:45am	Period 3: 11:00am	11:30am onwards
7	Wednesday	8:00am - 8:15am	8:45am -10:45am	Period 3: 11:00am	11:30am onwards
10	Thursday	8:15am - 8:30am	8:45am -10:45am	Period 3: 11:00am	11:30am onwards
9	Friday	8:00am - 8:15am	8:45am -10:45am	Period 3: 11:00am	11:30am onwards

Dear Parents/Carers,

As Mr Nelson has informed you in this letter, the school will be operating a staggered start for all year groups from the week commencing March 8th. The timetable above should hopefully make it clear as to when each year group should return to school where they will be given an LFT (Lateral Flow Test) in the morning followed by an assembly and the resumption of normal lessons.

On Monday, we will welcome back Year 11 only who will arrive at their normal allocated time (8:15am - 8:30am). From there they will attend morning tutor time before being escorted to where we will be helping them to self-administer the LFT. After a student has received their test, they will return to their Period 1 or Period 2 lesson before morning break. Following this, the students will attend an assembly with the Heads of House (Ms Ingram and Mr Webb) with the purpose of reminding students of the protocols in place designed to keep all students, staff and families as safe as possible. Also, there will be further information regarding the expanded role that face masks will play in the school, namely in lessons. From approximately 11:30am, the school day will run as per normal.

From Tuesday through to Friday we will welcome back all remaining year groups in the staggered structure as highlighted above. While a year group is still at home awaiting their return, teachers will set work via Google Classroom and/or Century Tech for them to be getting on with. Once a year group has returned to school on their allocated day, they are to come into school on all subsequent days at their normal time e.g. Year 11: Monday - Friday, Year 8: Tuesday - Friday, and so on. From Monday March 15th, all students will be in school for the full five days.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to please, if you have not done so already, to provide the school with your consent so that we can guide students in the self-administration of the LFT test. These tests are the best way we have in identifying any COVID-positive cases early with the aim of keeping the school open and students, staff and families as safe as possible. Thank you.



Mr Raw

Deputy Headteacher

Finally, back to me, I'd just like to say again how excited everyone is that we are restarting face-to-face learning at Wapping High School. This has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone and although I'm very proud of the work that all staff have done to ensure that remote learning has been the best it can be during both lockdowns, we're all very glad we're getting back to relative normal now. I'd also like to say well done to you as parents and families, having taken on the challenge of home schooling and done a terrific job in difficult circumstances... Thank you everyone!

As always, do feel free to contact the school if you need any more information or if you feel we can help you or contact me directly on headteacher@wappinghigh.org or Mr Raw on tomraw@wappinghigh.org and we'll help you in any way we can.

Please note that this letter will also be on the school website and can be translated to different languages with the website's Google Translate function.

My best wishes and stay safe.



Gary Nelson

Headteacher