

26 February 2021

Dear Parents

I hope you and your families are all well. This letter is the second and final letter providing you with the key information that you require to support your son and daughter in their return to school.

We will be organising the students, as we did before into year group bubbles, this means students will attend their normal lessons, with their normal teachers but will be in designated year group areas at social times, and when they enter and leave the site. We ask that you explain the importance of students not crossing bubbles to your son and daughter. This is a key measure in protecting our community from the spread of COVID.

### **INSET Day**

As you are aware we have two INSET days in June, this has historically been around the weekend of Glastonbury. As Glastonbury is not taking place this year, we have made the decision to move the INSET day from Monday 28 June to **Monday 8 March**. This will support the staff in preparing for the students return to school.

### **Phased Return**

We will be phasing the return to school as set out below

#### Monday 8 March – INSET Day

- All Year 11 and 13 Day students will be invited onsite site for a lateral flow test.
- Year 13 and 11 Boarders may join boarding after 4pm, having had a successful lateral flow test.

#### Tuesday 9 March – School open for Years 13 and 11

- Years 13 and 11 attending onsite lessons
- Years 12, 10 and 9 invited to book appointments for lateral flow tests onsite
- Year 12, 10 and 9 Boarders may re-join boarding after 4pm, having had a successful lateral flow test

#### Wednesday 10 March – School open for Years 13,12,11,10, and 9

- Years 13,12,11,10,9 attending lessons
- Years 8 and 7 invited to book appointments for lateral flow tests onsite
- Year 8 and 7 Boarders may re-join boarding after 4pm, having had a successful lateral flow test

#### Thursday 11 March onwards – School open to all students

- All students in lessons

### **COVID Testing in School**

Please can I ask for your support in providing your consent for your son or daughter to take part in the testing programme, this will help us protect the members of our school community and your families. **We will be running a booking system for testing on the allocated days shown above via our online parents evening system. This system will go live next week; you will be notified when the booking system is open.**

We will be providing COVID lateral flow tests. If you have not yet completed the online form giving consent to testing, please could you do so. The link for this form can be found by clicking [here](#).

Boarders will be tested twice a week and upon return to the boarding house if they go home at the weekend. Day students will have three tests onsite each being 3-5 days apart when they return to school. After this point, we will be asking Parents to test their children at home and notify us of any positive test result. At this point we have not yet received the home testing test, as soon as we have they will be dispatched to you.

If your son or daughter has had a positive PCR or lateral flow test within 90 days they should not retest until they are outside of the 90 day window. Please contact Mrs M Sandiford (School Nurse), if this applies to your son or daughter

### **Vulnerable Learners and Children of Critical Workers Provision (week commencing 8 March)**

During the phased return week, provision will be provided for students whose parents are Critical Workers and vulnerable students in the same way as we have been during lockdown. Once their year group returns to school they will join their cohort in class.

### **Remote Learning During Phased Return Week - 8 to 11 March**

It is important that students finish the home learning phase and transition to school in a supported way. For this reason during the week 8 March, we want to ensure that students are supported in their return. The students that are not onsite Tuesday to Thursday, will need to:-

- Attend a pre-booked 1:1 Conversation with their Form Tutor to discuss their return to School
- Complete PE tasks set
- Ensure they are up to date and have completed all work set during school closure
- Read for 1 hour each day
- Ensure their Hegarty Maths is all up to date
- Complete the final remote learning task (information will be provided next week).

Students will need to bring all work completed in lockdown with them back to school so staff can ensure it is safely stored in their folders and/or books.

### **Student Briefing**

All students will receive a briefing on their first day to ensure that they understand the measures in place due to COVID-19 and our expectations of them to ensure we care for and protect each other.

### **Entry and Exit from Site**

We have made the decision not to stagger the start of the school day, as this would cause additional stress and inconvenience to families who have students in multiple year groups. We have therefore decided to allocate set entry and exit points to the school site for each year group as set out below:

- Year 7 – Main entrance turn right
- Year 8 – Cliff
- Year 9 – Humanities gate
- Year 10 – New History entrance
- Year 11 – Boarding site exit next to staff car park
- Sixth Form – Sixth Form entrance at bus stop

Students should not enter the site earlier than 8:15am and no later than 8:35am. A bell will sound at 8:35am to move to Tutor Rooms for 8:40am. When students arrive on the school site, if it is before 8:35am they are to move to their designated social space area as set out below: -

Year 7	– Outside main hall
Year 8	– New Squares
Year 9	– Old Squares
Year 10	– Upper Hack
Year 11	– Lower Hack
Sixth form	– Sixth Form Centre

If your son or daughter is walking to school, they should walk to the entry point and then proceed directly to their allocated social space area.

### **Drop Off and Collection**

If your son or daughter is being dropped off at school, please use the boarding driveway circuit and lower car park to drop them off and collect them. Please do not exit your car and be mindful that all parents will be keen to drop off and pick up in an organised and efficient way. Please do not drop your son or daughter off by car before 8:15am. Once your son or daughter has been dropped off, they should move directly to their allocated social space area maintaining social distancing from other students.

Students will be dismissed at the end of the school day by their Period 5 teacher and will be expected to leave the site promptly upholding social distancing.

### **Travel To and From School**

#### Walking to School

Where possible, we are asking that students walk to school and that they do so maintaining social distancing of at least 1m from non-family members.

#### Sixth Form Minibuses

These will be running, we ask that the students uphold the following safety measures: -

1. Wear a mask on the bus.
2. Use anti-bacterial gel as they get on the bus.
3. Where possible sit a seat apart from each other.
4. Travel with a window open where possible.

#### Public Transport

Please check directly with the operator to ensure that the service you use will be operating their normal timetable. Students will need to wear a mask on public transport unless they are exempt and holding a badge to show this exemption.

#### Travelling by car

The advice we have received is that where possible, families should not lift share during this time due to the small closed environment of a car. Should you choose to lift share we would recommend following similar safety measure as those travelling by bus.

## Social Distancing

We will be asking all students to maintain at least a 1m distance from one another where possible in particular: -

1. When arriving at school.
2. When walking around the school site.
3. At lesson change over.
4. At social times.
5. When leaving the school site.

Staff will be maintaining a 2m distance from students when possible and will ensure if they are within 2m of the students, that this is for the shortest period of time possible. This is a protective factor for staff and students as teachers will be teaching across multiple groups each day.

## Visitors

Please can I ask for your support in the helping us to reduce the number of visitors to the school site. Should you need to speak to a staff member please contact Reception and Mrs Brownlow will support you in arranging a telephone conversation with the most appropriate staff member. Alternatively, if you are able to email the staff member please feel free to do so. All staff email addresses are on the school website.

We will not be allowing visitors onto the school site without a prearranged appointment and they will be required to confirm they have no symptoms of COVID-19 and should not be self- isolating.

Please do not get out of your car when you drop off or pick up you son or daughter from school to help us limit the number of people onsite and who could become contacts in the event of a positive case amongst the school community.

## Curriculum

We have maintained our broad and balanced curriculum and will not be removing any subjects from a student's curriculum.

Staff will be reviewing student's knowledge and understand of the topics studied during lockdown. They will then ensure their teaching plans reflect the students' needs to ensure each student achieves their full potential.

We will continue to provide additional support and intervention in line with the Government Catch up Grant.

## Teaching and Learning

Staff will be maintaining their high standards around teaching and learning and expectations of students in class. We appreciate that as is always the case when returning after a period of time away from school, we will need to revisit these with students and staff are prepared to do this.

The underlying principles we have, are to provide high quality teaching and learning for all students, that challenges, motivates and inspires them and this will remain when the school reopens. Students can expect to experience: -

- Dedicated reading time each morning.
- The set entry and exit routines for lessons.

- The set 5-part lesson structure, with lessons starting with a low stakes quiz to help support memory recall.
- Well planned lessons that inspire, motivate, challenge and support all students.
- High quality verbal feedback in lessons to support learning.

You will appreciate that staff will need to undertake additional protective measures around handling students' books and so written teacher feedback will be approached in a slightly different way.

PE lessons will continue, and the team will be following each of the sport's governing body's COVID policy to ensure we protect our students from any increased risk in PE.

Classrooms will be set up as far as is possible using rows and students will not sit facing each other. Each class will have a set seating plan to allow us to quickly establish who are contacts in the event of a student testing positive for COVID-19.

Textbooks will not be shared across groups without following clear guidance on cleaning and leaving the books to "sit" for a period of time (at least 24 hours) before they are used by a different group

### **Lunch Arrangements**

I am delighted that we will be reintroducing our hot meal service as the school community returns to onsite learning. If you currently have credit on your ParentPay account, the credit will automatically roll over for this new period.

Sexey's now has two dining areas so that we can provide sufficient access to all year groups, the areas are cleaned between sittings to ensure our year group bubbles are protected. We are currently unable to offer a salad bar option at this time.

We are sadly unable to provide an adhoc pay on the day system during this time and access to the KDR will be limited to the families who chose to purchase lunchtime meals in advance, we apologise for any inconvenience this cause. The cashless catering system, and online payment system allows parents to pay for lunchtime meals in advance. You should have already received your login details to allow you to add credit.

The cost of the service will be £48 for the period until Easter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the finance team ([Accounts@sexeyssomerset.sch.uk](mailto:Accounts@sexeyssomerset.sch.uk))

### **Social Time Arrangements**

All students will have their normal breaks at school, and students will have set social time areas to use, supervised by staff. Where possible these will be outdoor spaces, weather permitting. Students will be encouraged to wear masks at social times and uphold social distancing.

Should students who choose to bring a packed lunch to school they will be able to eat their lunch in the designated social space area or the KDR.

On wet days, an indoor venue will be provided for each year group as their allocated social space area.

## School Uniform

All students are recommended to wear PE kit on days when they have PE to avoid the need to use the changing rooms, where socially distancing is hard. On all other days, students should wear their full school uniform. After the Easter break, students will be able to wear their summer uniform (polo shirts).

## Homework

Homework will not be set for the week 8 March, as we support students in their return to learning onsite. Homework will restart aligned to the Homework timetable from Monday 15 March.

## Equipment

Students will not be permitted to share equipment, so please ensure that students have an appropriately stocked pencil case, including a Maths set, a black or blue pen, a red and green biro and highlighters.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

These will start from 15 March and will be within Year Group bubbles.

## Masks

All students will be required to wear masks in all internal spaces where social distancing is not possible. In line with the government announcement, students will be expected to wear masks in classrooms. I know there is a range of research about mask wearing, but sadly, at this time I am required to follow the government announcement.

Please can I ask that you ensure your son/daughter has a sufficient number of masks to use a clean one each day. Students will be expected to keep a safe distance from one another and follow good hand hygiene to support mask wearing to reduce the spread of COVID.

If your son or daughter has a medical condition that means they are exempt from wearing a mask, please do not hesitate to let Mrs Brownlow know ([sjbrownlow@sexeyssomerset.sch.uk](mailto:sjbrownlow@sexeyssomerset.sch.uk)). Once you have provided the necessary evidence she will arrange an exemption clipped badge for them to wear showing that they are exempt from wearing a mask, this will stop staff continually asking them during the day about this, students will need to wear this so that it is visible.

If a student arrives at school without a mask, we will provide them with a reusable one and will invoice you for £1.50. We have made the conscious decision not to provide disposable masks to reduce the litter on the site and support the environment.

## Cleaning

We have increased the number of cleaners onsite ready for students return to ensure that cleaning takes place throughout the day and in particular of toilets and touch points. Staff will be using Steri-7 (which we used previously) to spray desks at regular intervals during the school day.

At the end of each day all classrooms will be cleaned, and bins emptied. Equipment will not be shared across groups until it has been thoroughly cleaned in line with public health guidance.

All cleaning will be aligned to public health advice. We have fogging machines that will allow us to fog classrooms, dormitories and other spaces across the site on a regular basis to again provide additional protection for staff and students.

### Toilets

We will be asking students not to gather or hang out in the toilets but to use them and leave promptly. All toilets will have a maximum number on them to support social distancing.

### Hands

Students will be encouraged to have good hand hygiene and use anti-bacterial gel as they enter and leave classrooms and before and after eating. As a school we have multiple hand sanitizer stations around the school site, we will be expecting students to use these upon entry to each classroom. We would however recommend that students have their own hand sanitizer to support them using it as regularly as is appropriate and possible.

### Catch it, Bin it

Students will be encouraged to catch coughs and sneezes in tissue and place these in bins, and to wash their hands or use antibacterial hand gel afterwards. We have bins across the site which are lidded, in line with public health guidance.

### Risk Assessment

You will find an area of the school website dedicated to the Reopening of Sexey's School, here you will find a number of documents including the updated Risk Assessments for both the school and boarding. This will be updated prior to school reopening on 8 March.

### Positive COVID Tests

If your son or daughter tests positive for COVID on a lateral flow test, please do not send your child to school, we would ask that you arrange for you to ensure;

1. a PCR Covid test be booked and attended.
2. that the result is shared with school via the Attendance Officer.
3. if a positive result is received that the student and yourselves isolate for 10 days.

If your son or daughter is a close contact of a positive case at home, they will be unable to return to school until they have completed a 10 day isolation period and have a negative lateral flow test result.

If there is a positive COVID case in school, students may be asked to self-isolate, this could be as a class or year cohort. In the event of this happening, we will liaise with Parents and Public Health and take any necessary steps to protect the community.

### Self-Isolation

Should your child need to self-isolate, they will be able to access some remote learning during this time, please contact Mrs Lewis [absence@sexeyssomerset.sch.uk](mailto:absence@sexeyssomerset.sch.uk) so that this can be arranged.

### Students and Staff Well-Being

To support student's well-being, there will be a focus on Emotional Well-being during Tutor Time and PSHE over the first few weeks.

We have also made the decision not to limit students to the same classroom all day every day or to place them in the same learning group for five hours a day, five days a week as we do not believe this supports their emotional health and well-being or their learning and progress.

If your son or daughter is struggling, and you feel that they would benefit from extra help please contact their Head of Year. All staff email addresses are available on the school website.

Year 7	Mr Oats
Year 8	Mr Carpenter
Year 9	Ms Sampson
Year 10	Mr Bomani
Year 11	Mr Moise
Year 12 / 13	Mrs Elliot

Apologies for the length of this letter, I wanted to ensure that we provide you with all the information that you will need.

The staff and I are looking forward to welcoming back all of our students to school.

Kind regards



**Mrs Helen Cullen**  
Headteacher