

24 February 2021

Dear Parents

I hope you and your families are all well. As you will have heard on 22 February, the UK government has announced that schools can reopen to all students from 8 March. We will therefore be reopening during this week. This letter will form the first of two providing you with the key information that you require. Later this week you will receive further information about the phased return that we will be running from 8 March with all students being back onsite as soon as it is possible and safe for them to be back. As the students return to onsite learning, we will be phasing out online live lessons apart from where an entire year group bubble is asked to isolate.

COVID Testing

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.

To support this testing onsite please can you ensure that your child has registered with the NHS test and trace programme.

Masks

All students will be required to wear masks in all internal spaces where social distancing is not possible. Students will be expected to wear masks in classrooms. 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.

Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment for Sexey's School is being updated, it will be available before 8 March [here](#).

End of Term Arrangements

We break up for Easter at 1230 on 1 April 2021. Boarders should be collected by either their guardian or a relative where possible, avoiding the use of public transport where they can. The new term will start on Monday 19 April at 0840, Boarders should return from 1830 on Sunday 18 April, further information will be collected regarding where students will be staying during the Easter break in due course. We need to collate this info as they may need to quarantine again depending on guidance by government at this point.

Support

We understand that there may be some pupils who are reluctant or anxious about their return to school. Please do contact your son or daughters Head of Year if they are worried about returning, who will be able to support you and your child in returning to school. We will work closely with parents and other professionals across the education and health systems where appropriate to support you and your son/daughters school attendance.

Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March. The usual rules on school attendance will apply. It is a parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school, the government has confirmed that schools will be able to impose sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct from 8 March. Please therefore ensure that you follow our absence procedure and contact our Attendance Officer should your child be unable to attend school due to illness or medical appointments.

After School Activities

Our after-school offer will commence from 15 March. Further information will be available on the school website [here](#).

Positive COVID Tests

If you 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 on absence@sexey.somerset.sch.uk so that this can be arranged.

Exams

To alleviate some stress for our Year 11 and 13 students, until we have confirmation from the government about the gathering of evidence to support the awarding of grades, we will move any further mock exams until after Easter.

We very much look forward to welcoming back all of our students to school.

Kind regards



Mrs Helen Cullen
Headteacher