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Dear Parent/Carer

School reopens from 08 March 2021

This week, the Government announced that Schools will reopen to students from 08 March 2021. We are looking forward to finally being able to welcome our students back to face to face education.

The latest Government guidance recommends a phased return of students during the week of 08 March to help manage the Lateral Flow Testing Programme.

The following timetable outlines the phased return of students:

YEAR	TEST DATE	LEARNING ARRANGEMENTS	RETURN TO SCHOOL
13	Monday 08	No lessons on testing day Monday 08 March	Tuesday 09 March 08:50
12	Monday 08	No lessons on testing day Monday 08 March	Tuesday 09 March 08:50
11	Tuesday 09	Remote Learning Monday No lessons on testing day Tuesday 09 March	Wednesday 10 March 08:50
10	Tuesday 09	Remote Learning Monday No lessons on testing day Tuesday 09 March	Wednesday 10 March 08:40
9	Wednesday 10	Remote Learning Monday and Tuesday No lessons on testing day Wednesday 10 March	Thursday 11 March 08:40
8	Wednesday 10	Remote Learning Monday and Tuesday No lessons on testing day Wednesday 10 March	Thursday 11 March 08:30
7	Thursday 11	Remote Learning Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday No lessons on testing day Thursday 10 March	Friday 12 March 08:30

School attendance is mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, students should self-isolate and not come to school if in the last 10 days they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

In line with the latest Government guidance, students who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school** - please provide us with the latest copy of your child's shielding letter. If you are in this group, you will continue to learn from home until further notice

Specialist Visual Arts Academy

CORONAVIRUS TESTING

To help us keep everyone safe, we will be strongly encouraging all our students to take the Rapid Lateral Flow Test as they return to School from 8 March. On their allocated Test Date, students must attend School promptly at the allocated time, in full School Uniform. Test will take about 30-minutes to administer. Students will be dismissed to return home once their test has been completed.

Students will have three tests at School over a fortnight and then will be given Home Testing kits to use twice a week.

All Year 7 – Year 11 Parents must complete the ‘Consent Form’ to confirm that they agree for their child to self-administer the Lateral Flow Test at School. If your child has had COVID in the last 90 days they will not be able to do the tests, however we still need you to complete the ‘Consent Form’.

Year 12 and Year 13 students can give their own consent; however, they should discuss this with their Parent/Carer.

Once the Consent Form is completed, students will be sent appointment times.

The ‘Consent Form’ can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#)

Please complete by end of the day on Monday 01 March.

Further details about the Lateral Flow Test and the Privacy Notice regarding how your data will be handled can be found on the School Website COVID-19 page.

I appreciate that this is a short turnaround, however the School is responding to guidance provided by the DfE.

If your child is not participating in testing, they should attend school as usual, in line with our phased return arrangements.

OUR SAFETY MEASURES

Rest assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure our students can return to school safely. A full copy of our updated Risk Assessment will be available on our website next week. The following measures from last term will continue:

- All students must wear a face covering in classrooms, communal areas and corridors.
- Hands should be sanitised before entering any room
- Students will be taught in Year group ‘bubbles’
- Staggered starts and finishes to the school day will remain

If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, or if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch with the Learning Coordinator.

We would like to thank you for your continued support with home learning.

We will inform you of any updates to our plans, or if we need to make changes due to Government guidance.

Yours faithfully



**M O'Hagan
Deputy Headteacher**