



COVID-19 UPDATE 11

24th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Planned Re-opening of Schools

I hope that you and your family are staying safe and well. As Dr Evans is currently away from school for 2-3 weeks following some planned surgery during the half-term break, I am writing to you as Acting Headteacher following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday that schools in England will be re-opening to students from Monday 8th March.

I would like to congratulate all of our students for their hard work and engagement during this latest period of remote learning, and thank you for the many messages of support that we have received. These past few months have been incredibly challenging for us all, and it is a great relief that there is some light at the end of the tunnel. We are now looking forward to welcoming our students back to school and seeing a gradual return to normality over the coming weeks and months.

Having now received more detailed guidance from the Department for Education, I am therefore writing to advise you of how the re-opening will be implemented here at Prince Henry's, including the plans for COVID testing of students. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, the school will follow the guidelines set out by the DfE and Public Health England. Should the guidance change, or more details be provided, I will update you at the earliest opportunity. The key headings in this letter are:

- Return to school arrangements, including key dates for return of individual year groups
- Covid testing consent and arrangements
- Attendance procedures
- School day, transport and uniform expectations
- Internal assessment schedule - changes to dates

Return to School Arrangements

Although the Prime Minister's announcement spoke of all students returning to school on Monday 8th March, there is a recognition that the safety of students and staff is a paramount concern and COVID testing of students (in addition to the continued testing of staff and students who have been attending school) is a key element of this. Therefore, Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, has advised '*School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils, with secondary schools and colleges able to phase return over the week of 8 March to allow students to be offered testing on return.*'

On this basis, it has been determined that the following arrangements will be put in place:

Thursday 4th March: Year 13 - students are invited and strongly encouraged to come into school solely for the purpose of asymptomatic COVID testing in the school's Test Centre (in the Arts Theatre). The testing centre will be open between 9am - 3pm. Work for any timetabled lessons will be set on ShowMyHomework - no live Teams lessons will be delivered on this day to Year 13.

Friday 5th March: Year 12 - students are invited and strongly encouraged to come into school solely for the purpose of asymptomatic COVID testing in the school's Test Centre (in the Arts Theatre). The testing centre will be open between 9am - 3pm. Work for any timetabled lessons will be set on ShowMyHomework - no live Teams lessons will be delivered on this day to Year 12.

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Working in collaboration with Bredon Hill and St Egwin's Middle Schools

On both of the above days, students will need to make their own way to and from school for testing and must ensure that they bring their signed consent form with them (see below). Car parking will be available to them on the tennis courts. Students in Years 12 and 13 will attend school as normal for face-to-face lessons from Monday 8th March.

Monday 8th March: All Year 11 students will return to school for face-to-face lessons and testing will be arranged as part of a rota on either Monday 8th or Tuesday 9th March. Lessons will be taught following normal timetables for all students in Years 11, 12 and 13. This is a Week 2 on the timetable. **Students in Years 9 and 10** will have work set via ShowMyHomework and will learn remotely.

Wednesday 10th March: All Year 10 students will return to school for face-to-face lessons and testing will be arranged as part of a rota on either Wednesday 10th or Thursday 11th March. Lessons will be taught following normal timetables for all students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. This is a Week 2 on the timetable. **Students in Year 9** will have work set via ShowMyHomework and will learn remotely.

Friday 12th March: All Year 9 students will return to school for face-to-face lessons and testing will be arranged as part of a rota on either Friday 12th or Monday 15th March. This is a Week 2 on the timetable. Lessons will be taught following normal timetables for students in all year groups.

The students who have been attending school during lockdown may continue to attend school in the LRC during week commencing 8th March prior to the official return date of their year group.

From Monday 8th March, all students and staff will be expected to wear face coverings in all indoor areas of the school, including classrooms, with some exceptions in certain curriculum areas, eg PE lessons. In addition, there will of course be exceptions made for those with medical conditions which exempt them from wearing face coverings.

When students return to school, the arrangements will be as they were prior to the January lockdown, ie students will be in year group bubbles, with staggered entrance/exit points, staggered break and lunch times, and adherence to the public health guidance in relation to hand sanitising, good hygiene and social distancing.

COVID Testing

You should have received in the post a letter from me, dated 5th January 2021 which explained the consent process that is required to carry out lateral flow testing (LFT) in order to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. A copy of that letter is also posted on the school website in the [COVID-19 Updates/COVID-19 Testing in School](#) area. In the same area, you will also find a [standalone copy of the consent form](#).

A signed consent form must be completed in order for the first COVID test to be undertaken and your son/daughter must ensure that they bring this into school with them on their first day back.

For students younger than 16 years - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

Students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent/guardian if under 18. **For any student who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

If a student tests positive as a result of the lateral flow test in school, they must leave the school premises and obtain a further PCR test and follow the [isolation guidelines](#) as shown in the COVID Updates area of the school website. In the event of a student testing positive in school, parents/carers will be contacted immediately.

Please note: if your son/daughter has received a positive COVID test in the past 90 days, please inform the school, as the current Public Health guidance states that that they should not undergo COVID testing as, even if they are symptom free, they may still return a positive test result and be required to self-isolate.

The DfE are advising that, following every student in the school being offered three opportunities for in-school COVID testing, the school will distribute home test kits to all students, with the expectation that every student will take these tests twice a week.

Further information regarding the second and third in-school tests and the home testing arrangements will be issued to students once they are back in school.

Attendance

The guidance issued by the DfE this week states:

'School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from week beginning 8 March.'

The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- *parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)*
- *the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct'*

Please follow the normal sickness absence reporting process if your child is unwell.

From Monday 8th March, with the return to face-to-face teaching in school, live lessons via Teams will cease and any students who are self-isolating due to COVID-related reasons will have work set via ShowMyHomework.

School Day, Uniform Expectations and Transport

The school day will be from 9am - 3.30pm as normal.

The usual school uniform rules will apply. Students will need to attend in full school uniform every day, bringing their full PE kit with them to change into on days when this is timetabled.

School buses will run as timetabled by County Transport. The normal expectations in relation to COVID safe travel to and from school will apply, with students expected to wear face coverings and sit in year group bubbles.

Internal Assessments

We are anticipating an announcement from the exam regulator in the next few days regarding the arrangements for teacher assessment of GCSE and A Level grades. I will update you when this guidance is released.

Internal assessments will be continuing for all year groups, but dates have been revised to allow students to prepare thoroughly and have face-to-face guidance from their teachers. The new schedule is as follows:

Year 13:	Week commencing 15th March (put back from w/c 8th March)
Year 11:	Week commencing 22nd March (no change)
Year 10:	Week commencing 24th May (put back from w/c 15th March)
Year 9:	Week commencing 7th June (put back from w/c 4th May)
Year 12:	Week commencing 14th June (put back from w/c 19th April)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr B Freeman
Acting Headteacher