



The TRUE Learning Partnership



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

23 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am really pleased that we can now look forward to the return of all students to school in the week beginning 8 March. Staff and students have worked incredibly hard to deliver remote learning successfully but I am sure that the return to greater levels of normality will be welcomed by us all.

Following the Prime Minister's statement yesterday we are now planning for a return to face to face learning in school. I am sorry that I cannot confirm all the detail in this letter but as you will be aware we only hear these announcements as they are made public and, inevitably, behind the headlines there is a lot of detail that we need to work through to ensure a safe and successful return. I will be writing again later this week with more detail.

When will my child return to school?

Students will start returning to school in the week beginning 8 March, with each year group at a time being offered testing in advance of returning to lessons. In line with government advice this will be a phased return so that the number of year groups in school will increase each day that week. From Monday 15 March every year group will be learning in school rather than remotely. I will provide further detail later this week.

How will the proposed lateral flow testing work?

The government is clear that rapid testing remains a vital part of the plan to suppress the virus. These are designed to identify people who are asymptomatic and might otherwise continue to attend school and risk spreading the virus. As you will have seen in the newsletter we have successfully managed lateral flow testing for the staff and students in school since January. This will be extended so that all students will be offered three tests in school over the first three weeks. They will be offered the first test before they return to school and the second and third while they are learning in school. Staff are participating in a DfE webinar tomorrow afternoon and we will then finalise the testing plan following that update.

What safety measures will be in place in school?

It is important that we continue with the rigorous implementation of safety measures in school. We will issue more guidance in a booklet to parents and students but this will include regular handwashing, face coverings inside the building, staggered lunches and breaks, extra cleaning, enhanced ventilation etc. Students responded really positively before Christmas and the result was that we had fewer cases of COVID-19 than many schools which allowed students to

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remain in school. We hope that students engage as well with the measures when they return in March.

Why do students have to wear masks in lessons?

The DfE guidance includes that masks should be worn in lessons until Easter. This additional measure will reduce the risk of the virus spreading and so, although inconvenient, it will support the safe return of all students and staff to school. Masks will not need to be worn when outside, unless in a queue, or in PE lessons. Students worked with us brilliantly before Christmas and I am sure will do so again.

My child currently has a key worker place in school. Will that continue after 8 March?

Any student who is vulnerable or has a key worker place will continue to be eligible to join the online lessons from school and the key worker school provision will continue in the week of the 8 March until all year groups are back in school. There will be no key worker provision on 15 March as all students will be able to attend school as normal at that point?

How will my child learn until they are back in school?

We will continue with the online learning for any year groups that are not yet back in school.

What about the awarding of grades to Year 11 and 13 this year?

That information has not yet been published by the government but as soon as they do I will update parents and students in those year groups of the plans.

Where can I find further guidance?

The DfE has a blog that may be helpful <https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/22/all-students-to-return-to-school-and-college-from-8-march-and-what-you-need-to-know/>. I will be writing later in the week when we have received more guidance from the DfE and from the Local Authority. If you have any questions about the welfare of your child as we prepare to return then please contact the welfare leader for your child's year.

I hope that your son or daughter is looking forward to returning to school from 8 March. Thank you for your continued support and I will update you further at the end of the week.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Dean
Headteacher

