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Cultural Diversity Quality Standard



The TRUE Learning Partnership



# Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Friday, 26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing with an update regarding the return of students to school. We will be providing further information to parents and students next week but I wanted to give some information before the weekend. I hope that this is useful to you and your family. I have been very impressed with how well the students have responded to the challenging times and in particular with the way that they have supported each other. I have every confidence that this will continue as we return to more normal face to face learning.

### When will my child return to school?

The table below gives a summary of the plan for testing and the return to learning. Students will come in to school to be tested on a set day. They will then return home immediately following the test. If we were to keep them in school after the test we would increase the risk of a wider number of students having to self-isolate if there was one positive test. I really do not want to be in the position of sending students home before they have even started learning. On the day of their tests the students will be set work on Google Classroom to complete independently rather than be in live lessons as so many students will be in and out of lessons. Each year group will then be in school as normal on the day following the test.

Remote learning will continue as now on any days prior to the day of testing.

|            | 7     | 8     | 9     | 10    | 11    | 12    | 13    |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mon 8th    | OL    | OL    | OL    | OL    | WS-T1 | OL    | WS-T1 |
| Tues 9th   | OL    | OL    | OL    | WS-T1 | LS    | WS-T1 | LS    |
| Wed 10th   | WS-T1 | OL    | WS-T1 | LS    | LS    | LS    | LS    |
| Thurs 11th | LS    | WS-T1 | LS    | LS    | LS-T2 | LS    | LS-T2 |
| Fri 12th   | LS    | LS    | LS    | LS-T2 | LS    | LS-T2 | LS-T2 |
| Mon 15th   | LS-T2 |       | LS-T2 |       |       |       | LS-3  |
| Tues 16th  |       | LS-T3 |       |       | LS-3  |       | LS-3  |
| Wed 17th   |       |       |       | LS-T3 |       | LS-3  |       |
| Thurs 18th | LS-T3 |       | LS-T3 |       |       |       |       |
| Fri 19th   |       | LS-T3 |       |       |       |       |       |

|    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| OL | Online Learning   |
| LS | Lessons in School |
| WS | Work Set          |
| T  | Test 1            |
| T  | Test 2            |
| T  | Test 3            |

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**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. Miss Holyland will be writing home on Monday with information about the consent form and the process of booking the tests.

We are really pleased to be able to run some additional testing in Disley to reduce the risk of students travelling on the bus before they have had a negative test result. This will take place on 8-10 March from 4-6pm and parents can book slots for those tests next week.

**Students and staff looking out for each other by wearing masks**

In line with Public Health guidelines we would expect that face coverings are worn in classrooms when we return. It is important to understand that this is an additional measure to ensure the wider safety of the school community and many students and staff are reassured by the knowledge that there will be wider wearing of masks in classrooms. It is a key compromise that has been put in place to enable schools to reopen and I hope that students will respond in the same supportive way as they did over the wearing of masks in communal areas before the summer. We understand that some students will not be able to wear masks as they are exempt.

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

Information on this was released yesterday and I will write to Year 11 and 13 students on Monday to provide them with further information. A useful guide can be read at [https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/25/what-you-need-to-know-about-grades-in-2021/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/25/what-you-need-to-know-about-grades-in-2021/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Students should be reassured that there will be lots of opportunities to prove their ability from March to late May and we will work with them to ensure that they achieve the best they can. We will not run mock exams in the hall due to the current pandemic and so most assessments are likely to be completed within lessons. We will inform students in advance of the assessments that they will be taking.

Thank you for your continued support. We will write to you again next week and I look forward to welcoming students back to school in the week of 8 March.

Yours faithfully,

*Matthew Dean*

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