

1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to share with you the plans for reopening the school. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our students back and to seeing students learning in the physical classroom once again.

Lateral Flow Testing

Thank you to all parents and carers for responding so readily to the Google consent forms that were sent out last Friday with regard to Lateral Flow Testing (LTF). We have now received over 1100 responses, which are currently being processed. The original Google forms have now been closed to enable this processing to take place. Please note that if any parents / carers have so far been unable to complete the form, they will be directly contacted with a new form for completion. Please do not attempt to complete the original form.

Students Returning to School

As mentioned in my previous letter, students will be returning to face-to-face teaching on a staggered basis throughout next week. This measure has been taken to accommodate the requirement for Lateral Flow Testing. Students in Years 10 and 11, alongside students in **9G** and **9H** will be tested on Monday 8th March with all other year groups tested thereafter. We have distributed the Year 9 tutorials across the three days as this allows for all students to return to face-to-face teaching by Thursday 11th March.

A schedule for all year groups is outlined in the table below.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Lateral Flow Test date	Tuesday 9 th March 2021	Wednesday 10 th March 2021	9C – Tues 9 th 9F – Tues 9 th 9G – Mon 8 th 9H – Mon 8 th 9M – Weds 10 th 9W – Weds 10 th	Monday 8 th March 2021	Monday 8 th March 2021	Wednesday 10 th March 2021	Tuesday 9 th March 2021
Return to school date / Arrival time	Wednesday 10 th March 2021 / 8.25am	Thursday 11 th March 2021 / 8.25am	Thursday 11 th March 2021 / 8.25am	Tuesday 9 th March 2021 / 8.45am	Tuesday 9 th March 2021 / 8.45am	Thursday 11 th March 2021 / 8.45am	Wednesday 10 th March 2021 / 8.45am
End time	2.55pm	2.55pm	2.55pm	3.15pm	3.15pm	3.15pm	3.15pm

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

The Pastoral Team will be contacting families to outline the exact time that their child should attend school for their FIRST lateral flow test. Students will only be attending for testing purposes on those dates and will return home after their first test. Second and third tests will be conducted during the school day and students will remain on site. Thereafter, students will be given home testing kits to enable them to conduct twice weekly self tests in the morning before school 3-5 days apart (it is recommended these are on a Monday and a Thursday morning each week). The Pastoral Team will also be sharing additional information that will be required for an effective transition back into school.

Students will continue to receive remote education up to the point that they physically return to school. However, it should be noted that there will be fewer live content lessons in order to allow teachers to prepare for reopening whilst also providing students with the flexibility to come into school for testing without missing out on their learning.

Safety measures and masks

We are currently in the process of updating our risk assessment and I will share this with parents and carers later this week. The most significant change to the safety measure is the updated guidance regarding the wearing of masks in secondary schools. Last term, students wore masks in communal areas unless they were exempt. This term the guidance is clear that public health takes precedence over education and given this, we will be expecting all students to wear masks at all times when inside the school building, unless 2m social distancing can be maintained. Should your child be exempt from wearing a mask, please email office@vynersschool.org.uk for the attention of your child's Head of Year. I trust parents/carers appreciate that the need to ensure the safety of the community has to be our priority.

Students should have at least one mask with them each day, and ideally a spare mask. For environmental reasons we encourage parents to invest in washable, reusable masks if possible. The wearing of masks in classrooms is a temporary measure and will be reviewed at Easter.

Returning borrowed devices

Students who borrowed devices such as Chromebooks and laptops during the period of remote learning will be contacted by our Network Manager to arrange for the return of these devices. Devices should be returned to the school reception on the date that your child returns to school.

Finally, I would like to thank parents/carers for all of your hard work and support during this period of remote learning. I know that I speak for all staff in emphasising how much we have valued your support in keeping students motivated throughout this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Mullings
Headteacher