

1 March 2021



RIDGEWOOD  
SCHOOL

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Dear parent/carer

I hope you and your family are well. Please find below the arrangements for the return of your son/daughter to school.

### **Year 10 and 12 Lateral Flow Testing**

Since the announcement about the return to school for all students last Monday, the DfE has confirmed with schools that they can start the testing of some students before 8 March and that the return of students can be staggered across the first week. To minimise the amount of learning time lost we are proposing to test as many students as possible in Year 10 and Year 12 on **Friday 5 March**. Students, who we have consent for, will be given a specific appointment time, which is outlined below. Appointment times are organised by Form Group. Consenting students must report to Student Services, at the appropriate time, where they will be guided through the process. Once they have carried out their test, they must leave the school site immediately; they will not await their result on site. We would expect that the appointment would take approximately 30 minutes. Students can attend their appointment in non-school uniform but must follow all social distancing and hygiene guidelines, including wearing a face covering whilst they are on site.

Parents/carers will only hear from us if the result is positive/void. If parents/carers do not hear from us, they should assume the test is negative. If the result is positive, your son/daughter must self-isolate for 10 days. If the test is void, they will need to be tested again before they return to lessons; this will be carried out on the morning of Monday 8 March if required. If the test is negative, they can return to school as planned on 8 March.

As this test is taking place before the official return to school, school transport will not be available. Therefore, for your son/daughter to be able to access this early test, they will need to be able to provide their own transport to and from school. Live lessons will run as normal on this day, but teachers will be aware that some students will be absent for a period of time to attend their testing appointment.

If your son/daughter has consent for the test to be taken, but you cannot make safe provision for their journey to and from school, please send them to school as normal on 8 March. They will be tested that morning and then attend lessons as normal provided they return a negative result.

If your son/daughter does not have consent for the test to be taken they are still expected to attend school as normal on 8 March.

**NB:** If your son/daughter is showing symptoms of coronavirus they must not return to school and should book a test at a local testing centre. Furthermore, students must not return to school if someone in their household is showing symptoms of, or has tested positive for coronavirus or they have been identified as a 'close contact' with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus through Test and Trace.



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### Testing Appointment Times on Friday 5 March

Time	Form
9.00	10C
9.20	10L
9.40	10I
10.00	10M
10.20	10B
10.40	10E
11.00	10R
11.20	10S

Time	Form
13.00	12R
13.20	12I
13.40	12D
14.00	12G
14.20	12E
14.40	12S

### Face Coverings

The guidance on the wearing of face coverings has now changed. Until at least the Easter holiday, it is recommended by the DfE that students (unless medically exempt) wear a face covering during lessons. To support the measures that reduce transmission of the virus, and keep our community as safe as possible at this time, **we will strongly encourage students to wear face coverings during their lessons and ask for your support with this.** However, it will be compulsory that a student wears a face covering if requested to do so by a member of staff whilst offering one to one support during a lesson.

We understand that wearing a face covering for extended periods of time can be uncomfortable, therefore, we have changed our policy on the wearing of face coverings outside of the buildings. To give students a break from their face covering they will be allowed to remove them when outside of the buildings. **Students must still, however, wear a face covering when they are in indoor spaces such as corridors/communal areas/ toilets or in the Dining Hall. They must also wear a face covering when queuing for the school bus.** Whenever a student is not wearing a face covering outside, they will be expected to observe social distancing wherever possible. All face coverings must be plain in colour and pattern and worn and disposed of appropriately.

### School Uniform

From Monday 8 March, students will be expected to return to school in full school uniform. Sixth Form students will be expected to return in business dress.

In the meantime, we are making it our priority to welcome our students back as safely as we can and help them return to learning in a more normal environment.

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any concerns or questions please use the 'contact us' facility on the school website.

Yours sincerely



A Peirson  
Headteacher