

24th February 2021

Dear <parent/carer>

I hope that you have had a restful half-term. Following the Government's announcement yesterday, we are looking forward to all pupils returning to school on the dates below. We have some steps to take, which are outlined below, to support the safe return to school. As yet, there are some areas that we need more clarification on from the Government; I will keep you updated, but please be aware that this information may also be subject to change. **What is really important, is that as many parents as possible return the Google form below to indicate whether we have consent, or not, to test your son/daughter.**

Catch-up Day

The last catch-up day was well received by pupils. We are therefore running a further catch-up day on Thursday 25th February. There are some activities being shared with pupils on this day to address Mental Health and Wellbeing, alongside some time for pupils to catch-up.

Return to School and Testing

The first pupils to return, will be those pupils who have signed up to take part in Covid testing. We will allocate a return time, for each pupil, nearer the return date; however, this is likely to be spread across the morning of the days below:

Year 7 Monday 8th March
Year 8 Tuesday 9th March
Year 9 Wednesday 10th March
Year 10 Thursday 11th March
Year 11 Friday 12th March

As long as the test result is confirmed negative, pupils will start back in lessons. If the test result is confirmed positive, we would ask the pupil to isolate at home. There will be a further two tests in school, each week, up until Easter. Pupils will then have home testing kits supplied.

If you haven't already signed up to testing, then please take the opportunity to complete the form below by clicking on the blue link titled 'Pupil Covid Test Permission':

[Pupil Covid Test Permission](#)

Those pupils who are not undergoing testing will return the day after their peers. For example, Year 7 pupils, who are not being tested, would return on Tuesday 9th March.

Return to school - Additional Control Measure

Witton Park has had a low transmission rate due to all the safety precautions we have already taken. The



Government have, however, changed their guidelines with regard to face coverings. Alongside other control measures, pupils and staff will be required to wear face coverings in all classrooms and whilst taking part in all activities where social distancing cannot be maintained. Pupils will not have to wear face coverings in PE lessons; however, they will need to wear face coverings in changing rooms. Pupils who are not required to wear face coverings, due to medical reasons, will need to clearly display their lanyard at all times.

Year 11 Grading

On Thursday 25th February, we should receive updated guidance from the DfE and Ofqual regarding the Year 11 grading process. I would hope to communicate the information, and the school's approach to this information, on Monday 1st March.

I am looking forward to seeing all those pupils who are returning for Covid testing, the week beginning 8th March, and the rest of the school community on 15th March. I will keep you updated; although please be aware that information may well be subject to change.

Kind regards

Andy

Andy Burton
Headteacher
Witton Park Academy

