

24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the release of the new government roadmap and the updated COVID special school guidance, I am writing to inform you that, following advice from the local authority and in line with other Special Schools, Granta will be fully open on Monday 8th March to all pupils. Any CEV students advised to shield will not be able to return prior to Easter, without removal from the shielding list by a Doctor. This is due to increased risk to their health at this time.

It is vitally important that we continue to work together to take necessary precautions, to protect our school community. Below are the key measures in place to support this:

- We will continue to operate in 'bubbles', where the same team of staff will support the same students, to avoid mixing amongst lots of different people; we will not be restarting After School Club this term until data confirms that staff moving bubbles will not cause additional risk
- Our hygiene and cleaning arrangements are well established and additional handwashing and ventilation remain key priorities, as well as the wearing of masks by those able to in communal areas
- We are continuing to stagger breaks, lunchtimes and the use of outdoor spaces so that as much as possible students and staff remain in their own 'bubble' and lunches will be taken in classrooms whilst the dining hall continues to operate as a test centre
- For any instances of pupils or staff displaying Coronavirus symptoms we have allocated designated spaces for individuals to be isolated immediately
- We are continuing to reduce any foot traffic into and through school by reducing the amount of visitors and all parent meetings will continue virtually
- We will continue testing staff twice weekly using Lateral Flow Tests; due to the difficulties of pupils self-administering tests, we will not be testing students on site however once we have been provided with home test kits we will be asking parents of secondary aged pupils if they would like home kits to support their child testing regularly
- All parents are expected to wear face coverings at pick up and drop off times and adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times

We will continue to provide learning opportunities for those CEV students still shielding. All other students are expected to return to school and the DfE has made it clear that attendance for all is mandatory, unless in receipt of a CEV letter. For some, we know the transition could be particularly challenging and if this is a concern we ask you to speak to your class teacher.

For further detailed information on our Health and Safety Guidance and Risk Assessment, please see the key document section on our website homepage. We very much look forward to seeing all our young people back in school soon.

Yours faithfully,

Ruchi Datta
Headteacher

