



Brighouse High School

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Dear parent/carer

As promised, further details can now be shared regarding the phased return to school from Monday 8th March. There has been a lot of information shared in the media this week regarding the route map out of lockdown restrictions and particularly about schools so I will attempt to keep this as simple as possible.

The first thing I would urge you to do, if you have not done so already, is to ensure that your child's school uniform is ready for the return. The advance notice of the full reopening of schools has allowed time to deal with any issues and we expect all students to be in full uniform on their return to the classroom. Please also ensure that hair colour and nails meet our usual expectations and that any piercings other than those in the ears are able to be removed for school.

We will communicate separately regarding the announcement on examination grades as soon as we have further detail.

Full re-opening of school

All of the measures that were previously in place will remain the same, but there are a number of additional control measures the Government requires us to put in place:

- **Three asymptomatic voluntary tests in school for students:** this will be offered to all students onsite starting on **Thursday 4th March**. We will confirm time slots for each year group, across Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March, as soon as we are clear on the numbers giving consent to testing after the deadline for consent passes at the beginning of next week. Please ensure that your child can travel to and from school safely if you wish them to access the tests on these days.
- **Home testing from Monday 22nd March:** following the offer of three onsite tests, students will be able to test themselves at home. Students will be provided with 2 tests per week to use at home. The same will be offered to staff.
- **Face coverings in lessons:** until at least Easter, face coverings must also be worn in lessons where social distancing cannot be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. Face coverings should continue to be worn in all indoor communal areas including the dining rooms except when seated and eating/drinking.

On site asymptomatic testing

As I said earlier this week, we will potentially have to test up to 1400 students on three separate occasions in the first two weeks, this will amount to over 4000 lateral flow tests. Although we have been testing staff and those students who have been accessing our on-site provision for some week, we have not had to do the testing on such a large scale and this will, of course be challenging, so I ask you please to bear with us.

Please remember that this is **asymptomatic** testing and is only for students and staff who are displaying no COVID symptoms. As has always been the case, if anyone is displaying any symptoms then they should not come on site at all and should instead arrange to get a **PCR test** at an established testing site, or via ordering a home test to check if they have coronavirus and stay at home until they get their result.

Phased return from Monday 8th March

I wish to ensure that all of the on-site testing is completed by Friday 12th March so that all students can return to their normal timetables and routines from Monday 15th March without any further disruption. In the week beginning March 8th, as I said earlier in the week, not all students will be in each day so that we are able to achieve our aims to complete all testing. We will also still need to:

- continue to run the vulnerable children and key worker provision if needed, though we would ask that you manage them at home on the days that their year group are not in school if at all possible and is safe to do so
- continue to set remote learning for the students not back in school
- continue to run and expand the lateral flow mass testing programme
- deliver lessons to those year groups on site each day, supporting them in the return to school routines and supervising them at breaks and lunchtimes

As a result, we will have to deploy some staff differently and again I ask for you to bear with us. We will be sending out a survey form to all students to collect their views on their current position regarding learning and wellbeing at the beginning of next week to help inform the return to full opening.

That week we will be inviting the students in on the following days:

Date	Years in school (following the timetable and taking 2 nd and 3 rd tests)
Monday 8 th	Y7, Y8, Y11, Y12, Y13
Tuesday 9 th	Y9, Y10
Wednesday 10 th	Staff and vulnerable/key worker students only
Thursday 11 th	Y7, Y8, Y11, Y12, Y13
Friday 12 th	Y9, Y10, Y12, Y13

Students will return to school, to their usual timetable, through the same entrances as they were using before Christmas. Heads of Year will be reissuing instructions for the year group zones as a reminder next week.

Coming to school:

A reminder the national expectations are that you **should not** attend school if:

- have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

The timings, timetables and the entrances for each Year group remain the same as before Christmas.

Remote learning during phased return:

During the phased return of students, from Monday 8th March our staff will be teaching some students face to face, doing additional duties to support our opening, assisting with the lateral flow testing, planning and preparing lessons and supporting our students. As a result the remote learning set on from Monday 8th may not contain a live element as they may have previously but consist of set work that students must complete independently instead.

As mass testing of students will be happening on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March lessons may also not have a live element as some teachers will be involved in conducting the testing and we want students who come into school for a test to be able to still complete the lesson they 'miss'; a live lesson would mean they miss this, so recorded or set work

will be available for those Year groups but others, not coming in for testing, will be unaffected and their usual remote lessons will continue.

Please also appreciate that staff will be asked to be in school at different times next week for a lateral flow test and this may mean that if they are being tested there will certainly be no live portion of the lesson.

Attendance at school from March 8th:

The Government has stated clearly that attendance at school is compulsory so please let us know of any absence in the usual way, on the days that they are due in school, and contact us if we can further support your son's or daughter's return. We do understand that all students may have very different feelings about the return and while some are no doubt looking forward to their return, some students may need further support.

We will still offer remote provision to students who are asked to isolate or test positive but we will not be able to offer live teaching as part of this as teachers will be involved in face to face teaching and cannot do both.

Thank you as always for your understanding and support. I know this has been a challenging time in many different ways for you as parents as well as for our students and staff and we are all very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back; I am particularly delighted to be welcoming our community back into the building and look forward to working with you all in more normal circumstances as we move forward together.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Horsfield

Headteacher