

26th February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Return to School Update

Firstly I hope this letter finds you all well? The Team and I here at Garibaldi are so looking forward to welcoming students back into school over the coming days ahead. Can I thank parents and carers for all of the work I know you have put into supporting us in motivating (and cajoling) your children into accessing and completing work.

I wanted to use this letter to give a general overview for welcoming students back into school. There will be further communication next week with further details.

Based on Department for Education (DfE) guidelines it is our intention to test all students 3 times at school before home test kits are then provided. More guidance on home testing will be issued later. This testing is to pick up asymptomatic cases and reduce the spread of Covid-19 in our community. It is important to explain that testing can only be done with students who have parental consent. If you have not already done so please visit the link below to complete the consent form.

https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk/forms/testing_consent.php

Students will return from Friday 5th March on a staggered basis to enable us to provide a first round of testing to those who have consented. The dates for the first round of testing are as follows:

Friday 5th March	Year 12/13
Monday 8th March	Year 11
Tuesday 9th March	Year 10
Wednesday 10th March	Year 7
Thursday 11th March	Year 8
Friday 12th March	Year 9

Once students have had their first test at their designated time, and following a negative result, they will resume their usual school timetable. For example, on Monday 8th March, Year 11 students will undertake their first test; assuming a negative result they will attend their timetabled lesson immediately after and then attend school as usual from Tuesday 9th March.

Early next week, we will send a separate letter to parents with a specified time for students to attend school on the day for the first test. It takes some time to undertake the first test so we have to stagger the groups. Students must not attend school until their designated time.

We will be providing a lateral flow test system which will be supervised by trained staff in appropriate PPE. The test does not hurt and it is very quick; students will administer the test themselves. The results are normally returned within 30 minutes and will be sent to the email address you put on the consent form. We will give details of a short video which has been made to support students and parents to understand what the test process involves. The link to this will be included in the letter next week.

Remote learning will still be provided for students who do not return until later in the week.

In line with recommendations we will be asking all students to wear masks in school other than for PE lessons. If your child is exempt from wearing a mask and does not already have an exemption pass for their lanyards issued by the school then please contact the school reception. Please note that plastic face shields are not recommended for use in place of masks as they do not offer the same level of protection.

If your child refuses to wear a mask and is not exempt and in order to keep our community safe, students will be subject to the normal school behaviour policy in terms of consequences. I have to say, students were brilliant at this last term and I do not expect that consequences will have to apply.

On Wednesday 3rd March and Thursday 4th March, staff will be returning to school in small groups for an induction session. It may be that certain lessons on these days may not be live. It is still important students attend these sessions as teachers will be recording lessons and publishing work for students to undertake.

Thank you for booking slots to meet with your child's mentor on Monday for Learning Review Day. I know mentors are looking forward to talking to parents and seeing their mentees in readiness for their return. We know some students and parents may be anxious about the return to school. Please use Learning Review Day as an opportunity to discuss this with mentors or please get in touch with us if we can help in the meantime

Finally and as stated already, I will write early next week with specific timings for students to return as well as some final reminders for students.

Best wishes for now and hopefully enjoy the weekend sunshine.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Aldred
Head of School