



Ref: RD/NW

## ILFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Mrs R Drysdale. BSc NPQH

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday that students will be returning to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, I am writing with details of how we will be managing the return of students to our school.

### Step One - Covid Testing

A stipulation of the return to the classroom is the testing of staff and students for the C19 virus, three times in the first two weeks. I am sure you will all agree that this is a sensible measure that will help protect our school community from the C19 virus. The school has set up a testing unit in preparation for the testing of all our staff and students and we will be sending out appointment times for students to have their first test (before they return to the classroom) next week. Given the vital role testing will play in protecting our school community, it is really important that parents and carers support the testing programme. Following the completion of the three in school tests, students will be provided with lateral flow tests so they can undertake twice weekly testing at home. Consent forms will be sent out on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, please can I ask you to complete the consent form as soon as possible, so that we can process the required documentation ready for our return to school.

To allow parents and carers to begin planning for the weeks ahead, the school will be operating the following phased return:

	C19 Testing Programme	First day in school in lessons for each year group.	Provision for student Learning
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Staff C19 Tests  <b>Year 11 students</b> to attend school for their C19 test appointment only  <b>Year 13 students</b> to attend school for their C19 test appointment only	No students in school attending lessons	All student work to be placed on ClassCharts.  There will be no live lessons on Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March to allow staff to attend training on our new risk assessments and to prepare classrooms and resources for students return.

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Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	<p><b>Year 10 students</b> to attend school for their C19 test appointment only</p> <p><b>Year 12 students</b> to attend school for their C19 test appointment only</p> <p>Some <b>Year 9 students</b> to attend school for their C19 test appointment only</p>	<p>Year 11 students in school and attending lessons</p> <p>Year 13 students in school and attending lessons</p>	<p>Year 11 and 13 will be in school attending their lessons as normal.</p> <p>Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be taught live lessons via Teams.</p> <p>Please note: If staff are unwell, work will be set on ClassCharts</p>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	<p>Remaining <b>Year 9 students</b> to attend school for their C19 test appointment only</p> <p><b>Year 8 students</b> to attend school for their C19 test appointment only</p>	<p>Year 10 students in school and attending lessons</p> <p>Year 12 students in school and attending lessons</p>	<p>Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be in school attending their lessons as normal.</p> <p>Year 7, 8 and 9 will be taught live lessons via Teams.</p> <p>Please note: If staff are unwell, work will be set on ClassCharts</p>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	<p><b>Year 7 students</b> to attend school, <b>accompanied by a parent</b>, for their C19 test appointment only</p>	<p>Year 9 students in school and attending lessons</p> <p>Year 8 students in school and attending lessons</p>	<p>Year 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be in school attending their lessons as normal.</p> <p>Year 7 will be taught live lessons via Teams.</p> <p>Please note: If staff are unwell, work will be set on ClassCharts</p>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2021		<p>Year 7 students in school and attending lessons</p>	<p>All students in school and attending lessons as normal.</p>

When students arrive to take their test, they will enter our Test Centre via the Mossford Road car-park entrance. There will be no on-site parking available. If parents would like to wait in the car-park whilst their children complete their tests they may, please remember to observe all C19 protocols including social distancing. Parents will not be able to enter the Test Centre (apart from Year Seven parents when a single parent or carer will enter to support their child undertaking their test).

Once the first round of testing has been completed we will publish the timetable for students second and third 'in school' tests. Students will be given their lateral flow tests to take home, once they have completed their three in school tests. Full instructions will be provided with the lateral flow tests.

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Once all students have returned to the classroom we will be stopping the provision of live lessons using Microsoft Teams. For students who are self-isolating we will return to the process of posting work on ClassCharts at the end of each school day so that students can complete classwork and homework in line with their peers.

If a student tests positive for C19 we will contact 'close contacts' of each student to arrange for them to self-isolate. If we all participate in the testing programme we will identify any cases of C19 early and will minimise the need for students (and teachers) to need to self-isolate. Your support in this is very much appreciated. Please reassure your child if they are nervous - like many people I have been having a C19 test twice a week since Christmas, I can reassure students that, whilst doing the test can be a little uncomfortable it is quick and painless!

## Step Two - Returning to classrooms

When students return to school they will need to follow all elements of the C19 Risk Assessments that were in place in the Autumn Term. Students are familiar with these rules but I have included a few key reminders below. There are three key changes that parents need to be aware of:

1. Students and teachers will need to wear face masks or shields when they are in corridors and communal areas as they did in the Autumn Term. **Face masks or shields must now also be worn in classrooms.**
2. **Students should wear their school uniform every day.** Students will be able to change into their PE Kit for their PE lessons.
3. If a student is unwell at school we will ask parents to collect their child immediately, as we did in the Autumn Term. If the student has siblings at school, they will also need to be collected and taken home.

As a reminder for students:

- Students should wear full school uniform every day
- Students must bring a mask or face shield to school every day (Snoods and scarfs are not suitable alternatives). It would be sensible for every student to have a spare mask in school, in case theirs is lost or broken.
- Students must wear their masks whenever they are inside the school buildings
- While masks are not needed in outside areas, students should try to social distance and keep a sensible distance from others when having group and 1 to 1 discussion
- Students must enter the school using the correct entrance and sanitise their hands. They should exit the school in the same way at the end of the school day
- Students will need to stay in their zones at break and lunch time and only use their allocated catering outlet, toilets and water fountain
- Students should avoid unnecessary contact with their peers such as hugs/embraces, fist bumps, handshakes and high fives
- On entering and leaving classrooms, students must sanitise their hands
- Students must stay in their allocated seats / follow seating plans
- Students should not bring their own balls into school
- Students should bring their own stationery, books and equipment into school
- Students should go to the toilet at break and lunch time and not during lessons

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**And finally:**

We are looking forward to welcoming students back into the classroom. Please be aware that we have members of staff (and some students) who have been officially classed as 'clinically extremely vulnerable' by their Doctor's and who will not be returning to the classroom on 8th March. Staff members who are shielding or self-isolating will be working from home. If a member of staff is unwell, cover work will be set in the usual way.

Please do not send your child to school if they have tested positive for C19, if they have a temperature, persistent cough or if they have lost their sense of taste or smell. If we all test regularly, work together and support each other I hope we will be able to minimise transmission rates and maximise the time students are able to spend in the classroom.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs R Drysdale

Headteacher

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