

# HARINGTON SCHOOL

Catmose Campus, Huntsmans Drive  
Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6RP

01572 772579

office@haringtonschool.com  
www.haringtonschool.com



24 February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you and your families are well. I found the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday an encouraging start to ending the lockdown and bringing some normality back to our lives. I was particularly pleased that the government has prioritised the re-opening of schools; I know from my own conversations with many of our students during this lockdown how much they are missing attending school, being with their friends and being able to interact in lessons. I am also wanting to make sure that their return is safe and that the measures we have in place ensure that the risks of transmission are kept very low.

Please read through this letter as it contains important information about our return to on-site learning for everyone. I will also send a further email next week which will give more detail.

It is also worth reading the advice given to schools following the announcement by the Department for Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mass-testing-for-secondary-pupils-as-all-schools-and-colleges-fully-reopenfrom8-march>.

We intend for all students to return to School on **Monday 8 March**.

- The School will be open as usual from 8am and all students will need to leave by 4pm to allow for cleaning to be completed. If this early closure causes your child an issue, please do ask them to speak to me individually and I will try and support where I can. On arrival students should make their way to their first lesson.
- All students must start attending the School site unless they have been granted an authorised absence. Any non-attendance should be reported in the usual way.
- **On Friday 5 March** the School will be open for students who are able to drop in to complete their first lateral flow test (9am-2.30pm). There is no need to book and students do not need to wear uniform on this occasion. They should enter through the main Harington School reception area where they will be directed to the testing centre. If transport restrictions do not make attending feasible, this is not a problem, there will a testing session for all other students on Monday 8 March. You will receive a separate message asking for your consent regarding these tests in due course.
- We anticipate conducting two further tests (three in total) on students once they return during the week beginning 8 March and the following week. Students will then be issued with home testing kits for them to carry out at home, we anticipate this will be two per week.
- We will maintain the usual restrictions regarding the one-way system, enhanced hygiene and social distancing we had prior to lockdown.
- **The wearing of face coverings will be extended to include any space that does not allow social distancing to be maintained.** Unfortunately, this will mean that students will need to wear face coverings in lessons as will staff who cannot maintain at least a 2-metre distance from others. Students will be able to remove them when eating food. The only exemption will be for staff and students who are medically unable to wear a face covering. This measure will remain in place for as long as the government advise it is necessary. We appreciate the high levels of compliance from our students in following this requirement so far as it has helped

keep everyone safe at the School. Every student who does not wear a face covering adds to the risk of transmission of the virus.

If you think your child is medically exempt because wearing a face covering could cause them serious harm, you will need to contact the School to discuss this prior to their return. Any student not wearing a face covering without the permission of the School, for which we will issue an exemption card and carry out a risk assessment, will not be allowed to attend lessons due to the risk this will cause others.

- Students will be allowed off-site at lunchtime as normal. The restaurant will be available if students prefer to eat on-site.
- The update from the government regarding centre assessed grades for Year 13 is now likely to be on Thursday. We will aim to release our approach to students and parents during the week commencing Monday 8 March so that Year 13 know what to expect.

I very much look forward to seeing everyone back on site on Monday 8 March.

Yours faithfully

John Harrison