



26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware from the news and press releases, the Department for Education have announced that all students will be returning to school across England in the week commencing 8th March 2021. Due to the Brooke Weston term structure, **this means that all Brooke Weston students will be returning to school in the week commencing 15th March 2021.** You may also be aware that secondary schools need to offer all staff and students on site asymptomatic testing prior to the full return to face-to-face teaching.

The Department for Education guidance for schools issued on 22nd February 2021 outlines how rapid testing using lateral flow devices (LFDs) will be used to support the return to face-to-face education by helping to identify people who are infectious but displaying no COVID-19 symptoms. The asymptomatic testing is an integral part of our school re-opening, ensuing that we keep all of our staff, students and community safe. Testing is recommended and highly encouraged for all staff and students. Upon re-opening, all students and staff will be have 3 onsite tests, thereafter home test kits will be provided.

To enable this logistically complex process to take place, schools are reopening with a phased approach, with some remote teaching remaining in place until all students have returned to school.

The table below summarises when each student cohort will return to school.

Student group	Date for returning *students should arrive for the start of a normal day (8.00-8.30am) unless stated
Keyworker/vulnerable	Monday 15 th March 2021
Year 7	Monday 15 th March 2021
Year 8	Thursday 18 th March 2021
Year 9	Thursday 18 th March 2021
Year 10	Wednesday 17 th March 2021
Year 11	Tuesday 16 th March 2021
Year 12*	Wednesday 17 th March 2021: Tutor groups BRKW arrive for 13:30 / STN for 14:30
Year 13*	Tuesday 16 th March 2021: Tutor groups BRKW arrive for 13:30 / STN for 14:30

* Students in Years 12 and 13 will continue with their live lessons periods 1-3 on the day of their tests. They will only come into school for their test and can leave when they have received their result. They can expect to be on site for around an hour. They will then return to school for taught lessons the following day.

Asymptomatic Testing

- Due to students requiring a negative LFD test result before fully returning to school, there will be a phased approach to returning and students will **continue to engage with remote education** until their planned date of return.
- Consent needs to be given by **March 10th 4pm** by completing the following form - <http://bit.ly/3bBqG4R>. Further details can be found on our [website](#).
- Students will be invited to the testing area of the school which is the Sports Hall and asked to self-swab. After 30 minutes, they should receive their result.
- Students with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with stay-at-home guidance.
- The test will be repeated on a further two occasions with home testing kits provided after that to enable two tests per week to be conducted at home. Kits will be provided during Monday tutor time.

- Results from home testing must be recorded on the short form [here](#) to help with contact tracing.
- Students not undergoing testing should only attend school with the planned phased return as detailed above.

Reopening guidance

We are really looking forward to welcoming all of our students back onto school site. We have included full details of school reopening and safety measures within the guidance booklet [here](#) which we encourage you to read through with your child before they return. However, summarised below are some of the key details:

- Students will return during the **week beginning 15th March with a staggered return**
- Students should arrive on site between **8.00-8.30am each day**
- Year groups will form a bubble, and students will be taught in classes within their year group wing/bubble
- Students will follow their normal timetable, starting each day with tutor time
- Students will have a staggered exit time by year group, exiting will begin **at 3.35pm**
- Students will have different entry and exit points based on their year group
- All students will return to **face to face teaching** by the end of the week beginning 15th March
- Satchel One, the online platform that allows you to see full details of independent tasks and homework set by teachers, will continue to be used
- Students have all received a Satchel One PIN required for parental log ins. Further information and support can be found on our website by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/3a6J6v1>.
- **All students should wear face coverings** unless medically exempt. Please see the information below for further details. Face shields and visors do not meet requirements so coverings such as masks should be worn instead. Students should wear their face covering in all indoor settings, including in classrooms.
- Students **must wear their full school uniform**, including lanyards and student ID cards
- Some practical sessions, including PE will recommence. In weeks 1 and 2, only students in year 7 should bring their full PE kit. Students in Years 8-10 should bring trainers on days where PE is timetabled as they will not have changing facilities but will instead engage with orienteering within the school grounds
- The dedicated school **bus service will resume** with all buses and stops from the week beginning 15th March. Additional details on the transport provision can be found here <https://bit.ly/2MrEaHV>
- Students can purchase food for breakfast and lunch as usual. For any finance/Wise Pay queries please contact finance@brookeweston.org
- If your child is unable to attend due to illness, please contact main reception on **01536 396366**

Updated guidance for face coverings

Guidance around the use of face coverings for students in secondary schools has been updated. Students, aside from those who are exempt, should **wear face coverings while in the building and this now also includes while in classrooms during lessons**. If a student is medically exempt a member of the student care team needs to be informed. Visors and face shields are not permitted as they do not meet the necessary updated requirements. Instead, face coverings such as face masks should be worn instead. Students do not need to wear face coverings in outdoor settings, such as during PE lessons.

Thank you

As is the nature of the current situation, guidance is updated regularly and we respond swiftly to implement legislation, ensure the best educational provision is offered and of course, to keep students, staff and the wider community safe. If there are any other major shifts in Government policy that mean we need to change our plans, I will write to you again. Thank you as always for your continued support and understanding through these difficult times.

Yours sincerely



Shaun Strydom
Associate Principal