

4th March 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

We are really looking forward to welcoming students back into school next week. I hope you received my letter last Friday which explains the phased return arrangements alongside Mrs McMillan's letter this week which gives some more detail about the LFD initial testing timings.

Whilst most of the arrangements for the in-school provision are the same as the September arrangements (timings, entry/ exit points in school, normal school uniform expectations, class locations, catering arrangements etc) there are a couple of additional pieces of information we need to share prior to students returning next week. Mrs McMillan has put together a short video to explain the arrangements for the initial LFD testing for students which has a link below:

<https://sghs.fireflycloud.net/covid-19/testing>

Updated LFD testing guidance relating to students who have tested positive for covid in the last 90 days

If a student has had a positive test for covid-19 in the last 90 days the current advice is that they are exempt from LFD testing and should not take part in this testing until 90 days from date of the positive test.

Covid-19 symptoms

Whilst the in-school arrangements, including LFD testing, contribute to minimising any potential risk of transmission of infection it is essential that all members of our school community continue to follow the government national advice, including what to do if any member of a household displays Covid symptoms (high temperature, new and continuous cough, change in taste/ smell). If this does happen the person with symptoms must book a PCR test as usual * and all members of the household must isolate until the result is received. In the event a student receives a positive test result parents must inform the school, via the absence e-mail (absence@sghs.org.uk) as soon as possible so we can begin the close contact tracing procedure. *It should also be noted that a negative result on a LFD test does not mean other measures, e.g. hand washing and social distancing, can be ignored.*

*Tests can be booked at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Face coverings

As you may be aware the Government's guidance to schools around the use of face coverings has recently changed and is a temporary measure to be reviewed at Easter. Students will therefore need to bring a face covering with them which they will be asked to wear in classrooms as well as communal areas in the school (e.g. corridors) unless they are exempt for medical reasons. Students will not be asked to wear face coverings during PE, outside, or whilst eating/ drinking inside. Whilst I am aware that there are differing parental views around this, we have had this guidance in place for students currently attending the school as part of the key worker/ vulnerable student provision and this has worked

successfully. Teachers/ school staff will also be wearing face coverings in classrooms but may remove their face mask to facilitate teaching at the front of the classroom provided a 2m + distance can be maintained from students (this area is marked in classrooms).

As face coverings may cause a particular difficulty for students and staff with hearing impairment there may also be a small number of classes where students (or staff) are asked to remove their face mask whilst giving verbal responses. This will be explained to the classes concerned whilst maintaining the privacy of individual students and staff.

If any students/ parents would like to remind themselves of the general arrangements we have had in place since September (timings of the day, tutor bases etc) these can be found in the letters home section of the school website <http://www.sghs.org.uk/parents--carers/letters-home/>

I look forward to seeing students back in classrooms next week.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Turner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Mark Turner
Head of Academy