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Rosebery School

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25 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to confirm arrangements for the return of students to face to face learning at Rosebery School, following the announcement this Monday that students can begin to return to school from Monday, 8 March. You will understand that there is a great deal of information to share with you and there are still a number of things which are unclear and which have already changed since the initial announcement. Consequently, the purpose of this letter is to provide you with an overview of our plans at this stage.

We are delighted that we will be able to welcome students back to Rosebery and we are in no doubt of the enormous academic and social benefits to students of resuming in-school lessons with their peers and teachers, despite our conviction that our remote learning offer has provided excellent support to our students. However, this has been a very difficult time for everyone, and we are very mindful that a return to school may cause anxiety for some of our students, families and staff, not just linked to the issues around the potential transmission of COVID-19, but to concerns around returning to a routine, catching up on missed learning and supporting students with long standing, or more recent, mental and physical health problems.

Keeping our students and staff safe

Our primary concern is the safety of all our staff and students. We have reviewed all the safety measures that we successfully implemented in the Autumn term, and the key elements of this, including the one-way system, separate home bases and canteen stations for each year group, wearing PE kit instead of changing at school, ventilation in all rooms and carefully configured classrooms to maintain distance between the teacher and the students will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

Face coverings

The most significant change to the measures of control introduced by the government is that all students must now wear a face covering in all classrooms and corridors throughout the school day, unless they have a medical exemption. There are limited exceptions to this rule, such as in PE lessons or outdoors, but it is now essential that parents and carers support this new protective measure by ensuring that your child brings a face covering every day. This requirement is in place until at least Easter, when it will be reviewed by the government.

Head of School: Mr D Lach BA (Hons) NPQH **Executive Headteacher: Ms R Allen MA NPQH**

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A staggered return to school

As we hope we have demonstrated throughout the pandemic, we have sought to be as ambitious as possible in bringing students back into school after each lockdown and we are committed, once again, to returning students to lessons as quickly as we can. You will be aware that the government have stipulated that students are only permitted to return to face-to-face lessons once they have received a negative lateral flow device (LFD) test. As a result, it will be impossible to welcome all students back to school at the same time on that day.

The programme of asymptomatic testing

The requirements for testing are as follows:

- all students must receive one negative LFD test result before returning to school. This will be administered by the students and overseen by our trained testing operatives in our Test Centre, which is based in the Sports Hall;
- following this, all students must have two further tests between three and five days apart in school;
- subsequently we will provide families with home testing kits and you will be required to administer two tests per week for your child and report the results of those tests to us;
- at present we have no information about how we will distribute these kits, or collate results, and will therefore be in touch about this at a later date;
- we have been carrying out asymptomatic testing on our Critical Worker group of students and our staff since the start of January who have quickly got used to these quick and easy tests which involve a swab of the nose and throat. You may find this video about the self-administration of tests useful:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuA2YVA6_6c&feature=youtu.be

At this stage we intend to only inform students and parents/carers of positive results. Therefore, if you do not hear from the school, then you can assume the test was negative. Please find attached a whole school student testing schedule, a DfE FAQs document which provides more information on testing in schools and a COVID-19 Testing Privacy Statement from GLF, for your reference.

Positive LFD test result

We will inform any student and their parent/carer if they have received a positive LFD test result and they will then be required to self-isolate for 10 days, as will any members of the community who are identified as close contacts. Members of the household who subsequently test positive would also have to self-isolate.

Intended test and return to lessons schedule

- We have organised two-hour test windows for each year group and a 15-minute testing slot for each tutor group. In order to maximise the number of students tested on one day and therefore to minimise the impact on students' learning, the test centre will run from 8.30 to 4.00 for the duration of on-site testing.
- Students should report to the Sports Hall at the time stated below for their test. It is important that students do not arrive at school before the time of their test.
- Students should come to school for their first test in their own clothes and then return home.
- It is intended that the students will then return to school for face-to-face lessons the following day.
- Tests 2 and 3 will take place during, or slightly after, the school day over the subsequent two weeks.

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Overview

Year Group	Test 1	Return to school	Test 2	Test 3
Year 7	Monday 8 March	Tuesday 9 March	Thurs 11 March	Mon 15 March
Year 8	Tuesday 9 March	Weds 10 March	Friday 12 March	Tues 16 March
Year 9	Tuesday 9 March	Weds 10 March	Friday 12 March	Tues 16 March
Year 10	Tuesday 9 March	Weds 10 March	Friday 12 March	Tues 16 March
Year 11	Monday 8 March	Tuesday 9 March	Thurs 11 March	Mon 15 March
Sixth Form	Monday 8 March	Tuesday 9 March	Thurs 11 March	Mon 15 March

Year 10

Year 10 will be tested on Tuesday 9 March and will return to school for tutor time at 8.30 on Wednesday 10 March.

	Test date	Test time	Test date	Test time	Test date	Test time
10CX	9/3	8.30	12/3	8.30	16/3	8.30
10EX	9/3	8.45	12/3	8.45	16/3	8.45
10MX	9/3	9.00	12/3	9.00	16/3	9.00
10PX	9/3	9.15	12/3	9.15	16/3	9.15
10CY	9/3	9.30	12/3	9.30	16/3	9.30
10EY	9/3	9.45	12/3	9.45	16/3	9.45
10MY	9/3	10.00	12/3	10.00	16/3	10.00
10PY	9/3	10.15	12/3	10.15	16/3	10.15

- On Monday 8 March there will be no live remote teaching or teaching in school and students will be invited to be involved in off-screen pastoral and consolidation activities.
- Students should only come to school on their initial test day for their test and will then return home.
- On Tuesday 9 March, Years 8, 9 and 10 will be tested and then receive live learning for the lessons that do not coincide with the two-hour testing window.
- On Wednesday 10 March all students will be in school for tutor time from 8.30.

Consent

We are required to gain consent for students to engage in the testing programme and for those below the age of 16, consent must be given by parent or carer. We ask that this consent form - the link for which you will find [here](#) - is completed as **quickly as possible and definitively by 9.00 on Monday 1 March** as this information is critical to our planning. Please complete this form for each of your children on roll at Rosebery School, if you wish to consent to their testing.

Testing remains voluntary and any student who does not engage in the testing programme can return to school with the rest of their year group. Nonetheless, whilst students can withhold their consent for on-site testing, it is our hope and expectation that all members of our community will engage positively with this vital additional component of our protective measures, alongside existing social distancing and hygiene protocols, in order to secure this first stage of the road map outlined by the Prime Minister.

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Children of critical workers and other students who have been in school during lockdown

Supervisory care will continue on Monday 8 March for all students in this group. On Tuesday 9 March students from Years 7, 11 and Sixth Form will re-join their year groups for face to face learning in school, subject to a negative LFD test, whilst students in Years 8-10 will be tested and will carry out remote learning. They will then re-join their year groups for face to face learning on Wednesday 9 March.

Returning to school reminders

Please note the following important reminders to ensure a smooth return to school:

Informing the school of COVID-19 symptoms/testing outcomes

- We continue to have to track all students and their families who have COVID-19 symptoms and who take a COVID-19 test. It is very important that you keep in touch with us about any potential or confirmed cases in your household.
- Should your child feel unwell with any symptoms of COVID-19, namely a new and persistent cough, a high temperature, a loss of taste and/or smell, fatigue or sickness, please exercise extreme caution and keep them at home until you have been able to secure a negative COVID-19 test.
- Please inform us as soon as you know that your child or a member of your household is going to, or has, taken a COVID-19 test, and that, therefore, you are self-isolating until a negative test result is achieved, or until the end of the 10 day self-isolation period, if it is positive.

Other expectations

- Students are expected to be **in school by 8.30 each morning** and should go to their Home Base if they are early.
- There is to be no mixing of year groups on the school site at breaks and lunchtimes and students will be expected to leave the site at the end of the day without congregating in small or large groups.
- The school day is as it was before Christmas and, therefore, students in **Years 7-9 will finish at 2.50pm** and students in **Years 10-13 at 2.55pm**.
- **Please avoid dropping off or collecting your child in Whitehorse Drive.**
- From Tuesday 9 March all students returning for face to face lessons will need to be in **full school uniform** and the usual expectations around hair colour, jewellery and make up will be enforced.
- Students who have PE lessons will be able to come to school in their PE kit.
- **Students will all need at least one face covering with them daily.**
- A canteen service will be available for all students. Please ensure that you have topped up your Parent Pay account prior to Tuesday 8 March.

We are very grateful for your continued support and patience as we continue to respond to the rapidly changing external context. We are thrilled to be welcoming back our students to Rosebery in the week of the 8 March and we will do all we can to ensure the students settle back into school life as successfully as possible.

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Finally, we know that Year 11 and Year 13 students and parents/carers are very keen to hear about what will replace the cancelled examinations – as are we. We expect confirmation of this later this week, and we will write again, as soon as we have anything definitive to share.

Yours sincerely



David Lach
Head of School



Ros Allen
Executive Headteacher

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