

Sponne School

A Music & Science Academy



Inspiring
Achievement

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Dear Year 8 Parents/Carers and Students

RE: Spring Term Update 6: Reopening of Schools

Following on from my letter last Friday about the reopening of schools and the need to carry out mass testing of students before they return to lessons I am outlining the details today for the return of your child to school next week.

The requirement to test students as they arrive (assuming consent has been given by parents/carers) and the need to carry out two further tests in the coming weeks is a logistical challenge with the number of students we have and the facilities available to us. However, this is an important part of the strategy for coming out of lockdown and we are all very keen to get back to face-to-face teaching as soon as possible. Therefore we will be admitting one year group per day next week starting with Year 11 on Monday, with **Year 8 returning on Thursday 11th March**.

Those students who catch a bus into school will arrive at the usual time but when they arrive they must make their way straight to the Hollick Hall where they will be tested before going to period 1.

Other students will need to arrive at school and make their way straight to the Hollick Hall at staggered times, to ensure the smooth running of the testing process, as set out below:

Surnames A-H: 9.30 am Thursday 11th March
Surnames I-Q: 10.30 am Thursday 11th March
Surnames R-Z: 11.30 am Thursday 11th March

A reminder that we have produced a number of guides to help students with these lateral flow tests, one of which can be accessed on YouTube via the following link <https://youtu.be/5oUacylgQU>. Others can be accessed via the website using the lateral flow test link on the front page. Be reassured that this is an easy process which takes no more than 5 to 10 minutes to complete. However, if you have any queries regarding testing these should be directed to testing@sponne.org.uk and we will respond as soon as we are able.

Face masks will now be compulsory indoors, including in lessons and in the study areas and must be worn at all times except when students are doing PE or sitting down to eat or drink. The recommendation from the Government is that students do not need to wear masks outside though many will continue to do so. All of the other control measures that were in place before Christmas will continue to operate including staggered breaks and ends to the day. Students will be expected to wear full school uniform or PE kit on days when they have PE. If you have any problems with regard

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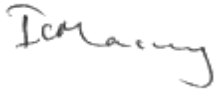


to uniform or shoes fitting could you please ensure you send your child in with a letter so that we can issue them with a uniform pass.

Many staff will be involved in the testing process and therefore on that Thursday remote lessons will not be set. Students will arrive at lessons gradually during the day so teachers will plan accordingly to ensure that students do not miss out on learning.

As ever, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Iain Massey'.

Iain Massey
Headteacher