



1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you are well and that you have had a restful weekend. We are looking forward to welcoming our students and staff back into school from Monday 8th March. Careful preparations are being made to ensure that the school site is made as safe as possible. The national roll out of the vaccines is to be welcomed and the protection this mass vaccination programme will give the population is to be welcomed. We very much hope that if you are offered the Covid-19 vaccine that you take this up. The more of us who are vaccinated the better.

Of course, whilst a third of the population in England has been vaccinated, there is still some way to go. This means that we all need to continue to carefully follow the national guidelines that remain in place. It is important that we are vigilant and follow the protocols which are there to protect us all. These include keeping an appropriate social distance, wearing a face covering in public places as well as washing our hands frequently and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds each time.

When students return to school we will be greeting them with a warm welcome. Please can you also speak with your children before their return about following the school rules which remain in place and are there to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone. If we all do the right thing all of the time we will be more likely to stay safe and well.

This letter includes information which requires action from family members on the following:

1. Dates of the staggered return to the school site from March 8th
2. Tutor Group Timetable for Arrival for Test 1
3. Arrangements for Remote Learning during the week beginning March 8th
4. Home Testing Kits
5. Testing for all households and childcare/support bubbles of primary and secondary-age students
6. Face Coverings in Classrooms
7. Periods 1-2 - Wednesday 3rd March
8. Before and After School – Letter from the Metropolitan Police Safer Schools Team.

Staggered return to the school site from March 8th, 2021

Students will be tested using lateral flow tests three times in the first two weeks. Please look at this schedule carefully to check the date of the first test for your child and the first date of on-site lessons for them.

Year group	Date of first lateral flow test (staggered by tutor group. Students will return home for the rest of the day)	Date of first day back on site for lessons
7	Wednesday 10 th March (morning)	Thursday 11 th March
8	Wednesday 10 th March (afternoon)	Thursday 11 th March
9	Thursday 11 th March (morning)	Friday 12 th March
10	Monday 8 th March (afternoon)	Tuesday 9 th March
11	Monday 8 th March (morning)	Tuesday 9 th March
12	Friday 5 th March (morning)	Monday 8 th March



13	Friday 5 th March (afternoon)	Monday 8 th March
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Tutor Group Timetable for Arrival for Test 1

On the day of the first lateral flow test for each year group, students will arrive on site for their tutor group's arrival time (please see below). Students will be escorted to the Sports Hall, line up in alphabetical order, register and be tested. *They will leave site straight after their first test and should return directly home.* Students will start their normal school day the next morning.

It is essential that students arrive on time for their tests to enable us to move as many students through the testing centre as rapidly as possible. It is this prompt arrival that will enable us to get all students tested by the end of Thursday 11th March. Please ensure your child has a face covering with them and is wearing this correctly as they enter the school site. Students should arrive for Test 1 in their full school uniform.

This testing is for asymptomatic individuals. *It is essential that any student who is showing Covid symptoms does not enter the school site and instead self-isolates immediately and orders a test via the NHS.*

Friday 5th March - We will be running Test 1 for Year 12 and 13 students. Please see the separate email from SFH6.

Monday 8th March 2021- Test 1 for Year 11 and Year 10 students

Arrival time	Tutor Group	Arrival time	Tutor Group	Arrival time	Tutor Group
8.50am	11S	9.10am	11Y	9.30am	11D
9.45am	11E	10.00am	11N	10.20am	11H
		11.25am	11A	11.45am	11M
12.00pm	10S	12.15pm	10Y	12.35pm	10D
		13.40pm	10E	14.00pm	10N
14.15pm	10H	14.35pm	10A	14.55pm	10M



Tuesday 9th March - We will be running Test 2 for Year 12 and 13 students. Please see separate email from SFH6.

Wednesday 10th March - Test 1 for Year 7 and Year 8 students

Arrival time	Tutor Group	Arrival time	Tutor Group	Arrival time	Tutor Group
8.50am	7S	9.10am	7Y	9.30am	7D
9.45am	7E	10.00am	7N	10.20am	7H
		11.25am	7A	11.45am	7M
12.00pm	8S	12.15pm	8Y	12.35pm	8D
		13.40pm	8E	14.00pm	8N
14.15pm	8H	14.35pm	8A	14.55pm	8M

Thursday 11 March - Test 1 for Year 9 students

Arrival time	Tutor Group	Arrival time	Tutor Group	Arrival time	Tutor Group
8.50am	9S	9.10am	9Y	9.30am	9D
9.45am	9E	10.00am	9N	10.20am	9H
		11.25am	9A	11.45am	9M

If you have any questions about the testing, please contact Ms Gostling at d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Arrangements for Remote Learning during the week beginning 8th March

During this staggered return, we will teach live lessons for the full days that your child is still at home, with remote learning (to be completed independently) set for the day they come in just for their test. Please be aware that several of our staff will be heavily committed to running the testing and so may not be as available during that week as normal.



Please note that the last day of our provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable students will be Friday 5th March.

Home Testing Kits

Tests two and three will be administered by year group during the normal school day, 3-5 days apart from each other. Once your child has completed the three lateral flow tests at school, they will be provided with home testing kits to use twice a week at home. We will provide you with more information about these in the coming weeks.

Testing for all households and childcare/ support bubbles of primary and secondary-age students

You may have seen in the news recently that you and your families are now eligible for twice weekly testing for Covid. This is a further step to help limit chains of transmission and will be a huge step in helping reduce cases of Covid-19 in Sydenham School. It is this that will enable us to reduce the likelihood of bubbles of students needing to self-isolate.

We therefore strongly urge all Sydenham families to sign up for this testing, which we hope also provides your family with added peace of mind. Full details can be found at this [link](#).

Tests are available in the following ways:

- Via your employer if they offer testing
- Via a test site
- By collecting home kits from a [local collection point](#)
- By ordering [home test kits online](#).

Please note that the government website states that where possible, families should collect from a local collection point as there is a limited stock of kits available to order online.

Additional Risk Assessment Measures – Face Coverings in Classrooms

Upon return, we will maintain all of our established Risk Assessment measures, to help us continue to manage the risk of Covid-19 within the school community. We will remind students of these protocols in an assembly on Wednesday 3rd March.

Please note that the new government guidance requires students in English schools to wear face coverings in classrooms as well as in communal spaces. This will be in place at least until the Easter holidays.

We recognise that this is not an ideal situation and we would be extremely grateful if you could explain the importance of adhering to this requirement to your child. Students may need additional face coverings to change during the school day to make this more comfortable.



Please note that we will begin charging for face coverings that we provide to students who have not got a mask with them at school. Please ensure that your child brings their face covering to school each day.

Periods 1-2 - Wednesday 3rd March

To provide us with some time to ensure our staff are fully prepared to implement the Risk Assessment and support lateral flow testing, we are going to suspend live lessons for periods 1 and 2 on Wednesday 3rd March. During these two lessons, students will be set remote work via Show My Homework.

Before and After School – Letter from the Metropolitan Police Safer Schools Team

Please read this [letter](#) from the Safer Schools Team about Police patrols in Lewisham before and after school to ensure that returning school students do not breach the government's Covid-19 regulations on their way to and from school. Please remind your child that the national 'Stay At Home' direction is still in place until at least March 29th and so your child should go home straight away and should not be with more than one person on the way home or on the way to school.

Yours sincerely

Gloria Lowe

Headteacher