

MBA/HPH/C190321
25 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The Prime Minister announced on 22nd February that students would return to school from 8th March. Mr Johnson told the Downing Street news conference that the coming spring and summer would be "seasons of hope, looking and feeling incomparably better for all of us".

I am excited to see the return of face to face learning for all students; however, it is a significant task to bring all our students back safely and as quickly as possible. Please take time to read the plan below carefully and discuss with your children.

We feel certain that our School is as safe as it can possibly be and we want to welcome back every single one of our students, including those with certain medical needs. If you have any queries regarding your child's medical needs and/or your personal circumstances have changed, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

You will see that we will be moving to a phased return, i.e. different year groups returning on different days. This is so that we can manage mass testing as well as a calm and purposeful return for each and every student. Where parents and carers have children in multiple year groups, we would ask that your children return as per the programme below. In exceptional circumstances where there are siblings in different year groups and it is impossible to bring them back at separate dates/times, please contact the front office. We will have some limited capacity to be able to test students outside of their usual testing bubbles.

For children of key workers and those classed as 'vulnerable', can continue to attend as has been the case through lockdown.

Start dates for students – the return to school in March

Monday 8 th March	Year 11 and Year 8
Tuesday 9 th March	Year 10 and Year 7
Wednesday 10 th March	Year 9

Students are welcome to arrive on site between 8:00 and 8:30. Where possible please assist your child to arrive between 8:20 and 8:30 to support our Covid safety measures.

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***For years 7 and 10 on 8th March the day will run virtually. Work will be set via Google Classroom.**

**** For year 9 on 8th and 9th March both days will run virtually. Work will be set via Google Classroom.**

Please note that the last day of 'live lessons' will be Thursday 4th March. From Friday 5th March and during the period of the phased return, students will be set work via Google Classroom. Students will be supported in pulling together key themes and pieces of work from the lockdown period ready for the return to school.

Keeping safe is our priority:

Face masks:

- Face masks will need to be worn in classrooms for lessons as well as when students are indoors and moving around the site. Please ensure students have a suitable face mask each day (unless medically exempt).
- Safe wearing of face masks requires the:
 - Cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or to put them on.
 - Safe storage of the mask in a plastic sealable bag.

Lateral Flow testing:

- In line with the guidance, we will be carrying out three lateral flow tests in-school for each consenting student as we return and we are planning that these tests will be spaced out over the first two weeks. After this date, there will be a system to operate lateral flow tests using home kits and the school can then reduce testing capacity on-site.
- Students with negative test results remain in school as confirmation of their negative result; positive results from lateral flow tests would be shared with parent/ carers immediately by telephone.
- Our SENCO will be producing a more personalised information pack for particular students to support their understanding of Lateral Flow testing. Information is also available via our Covid-19 information page

<https://www.becclesschool.org.uk/covid-19/>

Consent

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- Many thanks to those parents and students who have already consented to testing. The point of the testing system is to identify asymptomatic cases of Covid and help to reduce the transmission of the virus. The more students that partake in testing, the safer the school environment will be for everyone. If you haven't consented, please consider this and complete the form using the link below, the form can be found at the bottom of the page – "NHS Test and Trace Registration and Consent form for Covid-19 Testing". There is no need to give consent again if have previously done so.

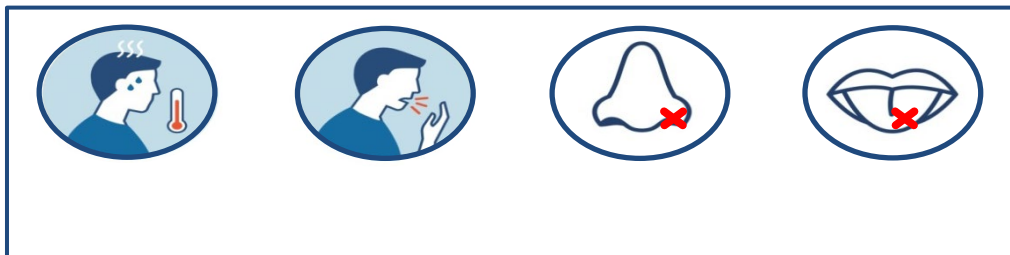
<https://www.beccleschool.org.uk/covid-19/>

- To assist with our operations, we would like all consent forms to be completed via the online form by **Wednesday 3rd March** please. After this date any changes to consent will be managed by email, please contact our Admin team at beccles@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Important

The main symptoms of Covid are:

- **A high temperature**
This means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **A new, continuous cough**
This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste**
This means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.



High temperature

New persistent cough

Loss of smell

Loss of taste

What are the key reminders for students?

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READY	RESPECTFUL	SAFE
STAY ALERT!		
Follow all school rules and the code of conduct as normal		
Do not enter the Teacher's Zone at the front of the classroom		
Observe physical distancing by staying apart from students in other yeargroups as much as possible and NEVER mixing between year groups		
Avoid touching hand rails and door handles etc.		
Make sure you sanitise your hands as directed		
Wear a face mask		
If you cough or sneeze, do so in to a tissue which you place immediately into a pedal bin		
Avoid touching your face		
Follow instructions at all times to keep everyone safe		

The road to recovery

- In preparation for students returning to school, we have spent a lot of time thinking about the curriculum and culture at SET Beccles.
- We are very excited to use the return to school to launch a new pastoral support structure for Year 7 to Year 10 students. We are no longer going to operate with our existing tutor system but move to a structure offering students a significantly smaller tutorial style Team each morning. The adult to student ratio (1:11-16) will enable us to settle and support students each morning in a bespoke manner, inspiring success and achievement. We are going to use the first week back to embed this change, to introduce students to the Team and House structure, to

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develop relationships and build confidence and resilience. More information will be shared with students on these exciting changes.

- Our academic focus is on building confidence and we have therefore chosen topics that will allow us to move learning forward whilst also providing us with opportunities to check, consolidate and then extend work and understanding from lockdown. This means in Science, for example, that Year 7 will therefore learn about Sound when they return which is part of our Big Idea that Waves Transfer Energy. Students will learn how sounds are made, how they travel and how they are detected. Students will first re-cap their ideas about Matter and Particles so they can apply new learning to consider how sound travels through different materials. Later in the topic they will also make links back to Tissues and Organs to understand the structure and function of the ear. This unit follows on from the learning about Energy that students did remotely in the first half of this term and the Science Team will be using this as an opportunity to check, consolidate and extend these essential concepts
- The updated guidance provides us with a route map that will allow us to return to a full programme of extra-curricular activity including music, team sports, drama performances and external per teachers and coaches. As you might expect, we are going to build this programme up slowly and gradually and will update parents and carers with our plans.

Year 11 and the awarding of GCSE grades

- The Government has now confirmed that the grading system will be built around teachers' judgements - with schools being allowed to decide on the evidence to be used, such as mock exams, assessments, coursework and essays. There will be no algorithm determining grades.
- We will of course work in line with national guidance to ensure that our students are rewarded fairly for the resilience they have shown and the hard work they have completed during a challenging time.
- Where assessments/ mock style examinations are set, we will always ensure a period of revision beforehand and students will only be assessed on the work they have studied. Standardisation and moderation processes will still be followed.
- The Year 11 Progress Evening of 25th March will still go ahead as planned and we will be writing separately to Year 11 parents and carers to confirm the arrangements.
- GCSE Results Day will take place much earlier this year on 12th August.
- We will write to Year 11 parents and carers with further information next week. The message to our Year 11 students is that they can look forward to the return to school and the awarding of their GCSE grades with optimism.

Year 10

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- As the Year 10 virtual Progress Evening was previously postponed, we have moved this to Thursday 22nd April. We will send out information closer to the time about how to set up your appointments with your child's teachers.

Finally

The new mass testing regime, with the national vaccination programme is an important step in helping to stop the spread of Covid-19. However, all of our other measures remain of paramount importance. Please talk to your son/daughter about the value of regular hand washing, using hand sanitiser, social distancing, eliminating physical contact and wearing a face mask when indoors (unless medically exempt).

If your son/daughter tests positive via the usual NHS testing regime, we will still need you to let us know as a matter of urgency via beccles@seckfordeducation.org.uk and the completion of the Covid-19 form <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f3cbf08219cb4385ac5ac44fbfd066e1>

I look forward to seeing all of our students return soon. I know that challenges persist, but through adherence to our Covid-safe measures and the 6Cs this, I am sure, will be another positive and enjoyable term for us all.

Yours sincerely



Heidi Philpott
Head of School

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