



3 March 2021

Dear parents and carers

I hope that my letter finds you and your families well. We are really looking forward to welcoming students back to the school site and I am writing to you to confirm the arrangements.

Much of my letter will be familiar to you as it replicates the arrangements that we put in place for the autumn term.

There are however, a number of specific changes where there are new or amended arrangements being put in place in regard to:

- Students' return to school and rapid flow testing arrangements;
- Use of face coverings in classrooms;
- Mandatory attendance and expectations for clinically extremely vulnerable students;
- Curriculum expectations;
- Examinations.

I have also included some additional information in regard to the following:

- Behaviour, discipline and student wellbeing;
- Uniform;
- Laptop and WIFI equipment loans.

Before I take you through the specific arrangements for full opening and additional information, I want to give you some information from Mrs Underwood, Assistant Principal in regard to the forthcoming **World Book Day** on 4th March 2021.

Students will be learning offline tomorrow and will be participate in a variety of exciting and enriching activities.

We have uploaded a selection of learning activities to the Year Group areas in Microsoft Teams.



To access these learning activities, students need to:

- Go to their Year Group icon;
- Click on the 'General' channel;
- Click on the file section at the top of the page;
- Scroll down to **World Book Day 2021**;
- Find the video '**World Book Day Instructions**' (this will also be shared with students during tutorial, before the day);
- Read the overview slide;
- Select 3 or 4 activities (students can select more activities to undertake if they wish to); and
- Upload completed work to the folder (please make sure the work is clearly named).

Students can use the following link to see a video about **World Book Day**:

https://ceatcloud-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lindsay_underwood_weaversacademy_org_uk1/Documents/Attachments/World Book Day Instructions for all students 1.mp4



[World Book Day 2021 Announcements - World Book Day](#)

In 2021 World Book Day, just like everything else, will be different. We've adapted to make sure that World Book Day sends a powerful and positive message about books and reading, even in lockdown.

www.worldbookday.com

Students' return to school and rapid flow testing arrangements

Testing for students began on the 1st March. Students will be offered 3 tests, 3 to 5 days apart.

From 1st March – 5th March students will come into school, be tested in the main hall and then return home to continue remote education. Students must enter and leave the site via Gate 2 near the creative arts block which is accessible from Weavers Road (near the sports hall).



The third and final testing schedule from 8th March 2021 is set out in the table below.

| Year Group | Test Date | First full day on-site |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 12 | 8/3/2021 | 9/3/2021 |
| 13 | 8/3/2021 | 9/3/2021 |
| 11 | 8/3/2021 | 9/3/2021 |
| 10 | 9/3/2021 | 10/3/2021 |
| 9 | 9/3/2021 | 10/3/2021 |
| 8 | 10/3/2021 | 11/3/2021 |
| 7 | 10/3/2021 | 11/3/2021 |

Testing will take place between 11.00am-3.00pm Monday – Wednesday in the week beginning 8th March 2021 and students in each form group will be given a testing slot. The time of your child’s/children’s testing slot will be sent to you via parent text the day before it is due. Additionally, we will publish the form group testing slots on our website.

Students attending school for a test between Monday-Wednesday of that week will return home after the test to access remote education.

From the 15th March 2021 students will move to using a home testing kit using the lateral flow devices which have received regulatory approval. Further information will follow about the detail of this process in due course.

Having undertaken a review of our health and safety assessments, we have decided to re-open some of the PE changing room spaces. This means that all students should attend school in their school uniform and bring their PE kit with them if they have PE on their timetable on their first full day back at school.

On their first full day of learning on-site, students will have an extended tutorial session during tutorial and period 1 (please see further details below).

During the week beginning Monday 8th March, the ‘bubble’ groups of students that have been part of the on-site provision for vulnerable students and the children of key workers during lockdown will continue in these ‘bubbles’ until their year group starts on-site learning. They will then join their respective year group in the relevant ‘bubble zone’.

The on-site arrangements will change slightly in regard to the rooming and teaching of these groups and detailed information will be shared with the students on Friday 5th March.

Yr. 11, 12, 13 will join their year ‘bubble zone’ on Tuesday 9th March;
Yr. 9 and 10 will join their year ‘bubble zone’ on Wednesday 10th March;
Yr. 7 and 8 will join their year ‘bubble zone’ on Thursday 11th March.



If you have any specific questions, please contact Mr Jones, Assistant Principal at: enquiries@weaversacademy.org.uk marking any correspondence for his attention.

Face Coverings

In readiness for full opening and the return of students, we have reviewed our health and safety risk assessments in the light of refreshed government guidance.

From Thursday 4th March 2021 you will be able to access the school's revised Covid-19 Risk Assessment on the website at <https://www.weaversacademy.org.uk/home/parents/covid-19-risk-assessment>.

Face coverings should be worn in classrooms as well as when moving around the school, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This precautionary measure will remain in place until Easter.

Face coverings do not need to be worn by students when outdoors on-site.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. Please inform the school, if you have not done so already if this applies to your child/ren so that we can take account of this.

You can let us know this information by contacting Miss Ryle, Assistant Principal at enquiries@weaversacademy.org.uk marking any correspondence for her attention.

Attendance

As students return to school, we will be raising their awareness of the positive impact that coming to school every day will make to their learning and to their personal development.

I would like to thank you for the routines that you established for home learning during the pandemic. We will continue to work in partnership with you to ensure that together, we motivate and engage all of the students to support them to re-establish positive routines, including those that relate to school attendance.

The advice for students who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. These students are advised not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally.

It would be helpful if you let us have a copy of the shielding letter please as this will enable us to tailor our support for your child/ren as appropriate.

We are here to discuss any concerns that you may have and want to reassure you that we have protective measures in place to reduce any risks. It is crucially important that



students attend school unless statutory reasons apply to them for not doing so. If you believe that your child/ren needs specific support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mr Townell, Vice-Principal or Mrs Noakes, Assistant Principal at enquiries@weaversacademy.org.uk marking any correspondence for their attention.

The school will continue to provide remote education to students who are unable to attend school because they are complying with government guidance or legislation in regard to Covid-19.

Curriculum expectations including remote education

Because we are operating a phased return of students in the week commencing 8th March 2021 to allow for rapid flow testing, remote education for all students not on-site will be in place throughout the week.

Given the staggered return to school - which means that students will be attending school at different times each day for their rapid flow test - we will not be running live lessons from Monday 8th March. Instead, any student at home during that week should access our blended learning curriculum provided on MS Teams.

Students will find the work in each subject channel.

The work set will include pre-recorded teaching videos, learning activities to complete and assessments to provide feedback wherever possible.

Students should complete the work set on MS Teams for their normal timetabled lessons each day and ensure they submit the assessments requested. We will continue to check students' online attendance and engagement online to make sure that everyone is learning what is intended.

Once students return to school, they will follow their normal school timetable and face-to-face teaching will resume.

Below is the information that I sent you at the start of the autumn term about the staggered arrangements which will resume from 9 March 2021 from students' first full day back at school.

| Year Group | Start Time | Finish Time |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 7 | 08:30 | 14:45 |
| 8 | 08:45 | 15:00 |
| 9 | 08:55 | 15:10 |
| 10 | 08:30 | 14:45 |
| 11 | 08:45 | 15:00 |
| 12 | 08:55 | 15:10 |
| 13 | 08:55 | 15:10 |



At 8.30am Year 7 will arrive at school via gate 5 (via the entrance on Brickhill Road). Year 10 will arrive via gate 4 and go to meet their form tutors for a 25-minute tutorial in their year group 'bubble' zones.

At 8.45am Year 8 will arrive at school via gate 4. Year 11 will arrive via gate 5 and go to meet their form tutors for a 10-minute tutorial in their year group 'bubble' zones.

At 8.55am Year 9 will arrive at school via gate 4. Years 12 and 13 will arrive via gate 5. Years 9, 12 and 13 will not have tutorial at this time but will go straight to their first lesson period 1 along with all other students in the school at 8.55am.

Wherever possible, all students should aim to arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before their allocated start time please.

The school understands that these arrangements may be difficult to organise for families with siblings that attend the school. We appreciate your efforts in making alternative arrangements wherever possible to avoid siblings arriving and/or leaving school at the same time.

The school appreciates the efforts that families are continuing to make in order to support these arrangements.

On their first day of face-to-face teaching on site students will access an extended tutorial. The aims of the extended tutorial session are to support students to:

- Re-connect with their peers, their teachers and the other adults that support their learning.
- Revisit the system of control and the preventative measures in place in line with the revised risk assessments (please note that you will be able to access the school's revised Covid-19 Risk Assessment on the school website from Thursday 4 March 2021).
- Undertake a range of activities during the extended tutorial session designed to support their social and emotional aspects of learning.
- To review their timetables with them and to respond to any questions or/and concerns that they may have.

Some students will need to have their third rapid flow test on either the 11th or 12th March 2021 and a time slot will be allocated for this activity during those days.

Teachers are excited about getting back to the face-to-face implementation of our ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects with the students.



Teachers will be increasing opportunities for formative assessment in lessons to help to build a precise picture of learning in order to address the most significant gaps in student knowledge.

Assessment information will be used by subject leaders and teachers to make appropriate modifications to the curriculum as required in order to focus on the most critical content to secure students' progress.

However, the curriculum will not be narrowed by the removal of subjects but will remain broad and balanced.

Examinations

As you are aware students will not be sitting formal exams in the summer.

Students in Years 12 and 13 will be awarded A Level grades on the 10th August. Year 11 will be awarded their GCSE grades on the 12th August 2021.

As a school we are aware of the pressure that students have been under to compete work at home during the pandemic. Given the changing circumstances, we have decided to discontinue the pre-public examinations (PPEs) that were planned to take place on students' return to school.

The PPEs will be replaced by a range of assessments that students will undertake in-class during the period 15th March - 27th March. These assessments will be varied and include some examination style questions for which students will be fully prepared by their teachers in advance.

A second assessment period will run between 4th May - 14th May for students in Years 11-13, giving them further opportunities to undertake assessments prepared by the examination board for the purpose of supporting the teacher assessed grade process.

There will be a third assessment window for Years 11-13 during May half-term for those students who would benefit from additional opportunities to undertake specific assessments. The school will be working to the deadline set by the examination boards for the receipt of schools' teacher assessed grades which is 18th June 2021.

After May half-term students in Year 12 will have the opportunity to sit a full set of AS equivalent papers through the usual PPE process.

Like Year 12, Year 10 will be given the opportunity to undertake assessments in their subjects before the end of the academic through the usual PPE process.

More information sharing the detail of the PPEs for Years 10 and 12 will follow in due course.



Given the situation, the arrangements and timescales may change again in response to any new government guidance. However, we will continue to keep you informed if that occurs.

Vocational subjects will continue with coursework and every piece of work supports the grades that students will be awarded in the summer.

Information on how grades will be awarded will be sent when the full guidance has been received by the exam boards.

If you have any specific questions, please contact Mr Jones, Assistant Principal at: enquiries@weaversacademy.org.uk marking any correspondence for his attention.

Laptop and WIFI equipment Loans

For those of you who have a school loaned laptop, a letter has been sent and is also on the website offering you the longer term lease of these devices.

If you do not wish to lease the equipment until 1st June 2021 you will need to return the equipment to our IT team in full working order.

The arrangements for returning this equipment is as follows:

Year 8 and 10 students return before school by gate 4 on 15th March.

Year 9 students return before school by gate 4 on 16th March.

Year 7 and 11 students return before school by gate 5 on 17th March.

If you have any specific questions, please contact Mrs Sexsmith, Assistant Principal at: laptoploan@weaversacademy.org.uk.

Behaviour, discipline and student wellbeing

The school's Behaviour for Learning Policy sets out clear, sensible and balanced expectations of student behaviour. It is vitally important that we establish routines with the students to help them to settle back into school life as quickly as possible following the turbulence of the last year.

We have made some temporary adjustments to the school's Behaviour Management Procedures which can be viewed on the school website from Thursday 4 March alongside the Behaviour for Learning Policy on the school website at: <https://www.weaversacademy.org.uk/home/weavers/policies>.

We recognise that some students may be experiencing a range of emotions in response to the pandemic. Please be assured that school staff will continue to work with local



services to ensure that the support that may be required by individual students is in place to ensure a smooth return to school

If you have any specific questions, please contact Mr Townell, Vice-Principal or Mrs Noakes, Assistant Principal at Enquiries@weaversacademy.org.uk marking any correspondence for their attention.

Uniform

The usual uniform requirements remain in place when students return to school.

New items of school uniform can be ordered at:

<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/weavers>.

The school has a small stock of uniform items that can be purchased. Please contact the school and we will be happy to help you to source replacement or additional items.

Increased ventilation may make the school buildings cooler than usual when students return to school. Given this, students should wear their school jumper and should bring a coat to school which can be worn in classrooms when necessary.

All students should attend school in their school uniform and bring their PE kit with them if they have PE on their timetable from their first full day back at school.

The uniform regulations, including for PE kit can be found on the school's website at the link below:

<https://www.weaversacademy.org.uk/home/weavers/uniform>

If you are having difficulty for any reason in obtaining uniform items or are experiencing other pressures, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mr Townell, Vice-Principal or Mrs Noakes, Assistant Principal at Enquiries@weaversacademy.org.uk marking any correspondence for their attention.

Finally

I recognise how difficult the last year has been for students and for families. Please be reassured that we want to continue to work in partnership with you. Where you have concerns or pressures that you face, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

I can be contacted directly at:

vivien.swaida@weaversacademy.org.uk or you can telephone the school on 01933 222830 and ask to speak to my PA, Mrs Clayton.



Thank you again for your continued support and for your sustained efforts in helping us to maintain the continuity of education for all students during the pandemic.

The daffodils are really out in full bloom and are truly joyful to look at. The better weather is coming and it is tremendous to feel the days becoming longer. We look forward to the summer and to better times ahead.

We cannot wait to see your children, our students again! Please pass my good wishes onto them, and let them know that we are all looking forward to having them back at school with us.

Yours sincerely

Vivien Swaida
Principal