

Dear Parent/Carer

We are really looking forward to seeing all the students next week and from the comments that the students have made in their recent wellbeing survey, I know that they are looking forward to returning to school too. It will be an unusual week insofar as we will be carrying out the testing of students, but we shall endeavour to keep the disruption to learning to an absolute minimum. You may find the attached documents from Kooth helpful in discussing the return to school with your child as we are aware that there will be some anxieties after 11 weeks away from the school site.

School Return and Testing

You were given the programme for the return to school last week, but it is reproduced here for ease of access

| Year Group | Date of return to school and first test | Date of test 2 |
|---|---|----------------|
| Year 11, 12 and 13 | Mon 8 March 8.45am | Thurs 11 March |
| Year 9 and 10 (remote live lessons will take place on Mon 8 March) | Tues 9 March 8.45am | Fri 12 March |
| Year 7 and 8 (remote live lessons will take place on Mon 8 March and Tues 9 March) | Wed 10 March 8.45am | Mon 15 March |
| Key worker and vulnerable students who have attended previously should continue to attend from 8 March onwards. Having been tested regularly they will undertake tests along with their own year group from 8 March onwards | | |

For the students in school, teaching will take place according to their normal timetable, with the testing taking students out of part of one lesson only. For those students in Years 7 to 10 teaching will continue as it has done remotely for the last 8 weeks on Monday and/or Tuesday.

Thank you to those parents and Sixth Form students who have given consent for the Lateral Flow tests that will take place at school over the next two weeks. It is a key part of the government strategy to open up the country again and avoid another lockdown, which is something that no one would want to experience.

Please take time to watch this short clip about the administering of the Lateral Flow test that your child will be doing next week, as well as reading the attached How to Swab guide poster: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXYjPUksaUg>

Face Coverings

There has been concern raised by some students about the wearing of face coverings in classrooms. The wearing of face coverings where social distancing is not possible is a recommendation from the government that will be reviewed at Easter. We shall be following their guidance and respectfully request that all students wear a face mask unless there are good reasons for not doing so; if this is the case, please let us know. We hope that as parents you can support us in this decision.

Home Testing for Covid-19 from 19 March onwards

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (Covid-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Tests are fast, easy, and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees;
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests;
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm. Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible.

Year 11 and 13 Exams

Some students have raised some concerns about the timing of the exams. Students have always been aware of the timing of the exams as this was set out in September and there have been reminders at regular points throughout the year. It was always planned to have a second mock for Year 11 students to allow them to show their progress since the one they did in November, and for Year 13 students it gives them an opportunity to do likewise. The exams are significantly pared back from those that students in previous years would have taken to reflect the pandemic and the impact upon the learning over the last two academic years. The outcomes of the mock exams in March will be analysed and fed back to the students and will not be the final grade that they will be awarded in the summer. Each student will have a clear view of what needs to be done to further improve on that grade and teachers will then have some time to undertake further consolidation of learning before we gather any other assessment information. There will be a further assessment window in May which will provide another opportunity for students to demonstrate their full potential before final grades are submitted to the Exam Boards. In summary, the mock exams are important but are not the final determining factor in the student's final grade.

Risk Assessment

Please find a copy of school's risk assessment [here](#). It lays out the measures we have taken to ensure students and staff are as safe as possible in school.

New Management Information System (MIS) – Bromcom

Please be aware that the school is making the transition to a new Management Information System called Bromcom. This will eventually allow for more efficient home-school communication, but until the process of transition is complete, parental access to student information through ePortal will cease, meaning that you will not be able to check on student events and/or sanctions for your child. Please be assured that if any issues occur relating to your child the school will contact you to keep you informed. Once we have further news relating to the roll-out of the My Child at School service (part of the Bromcom MIS parental communication system) we will be in touch.

Student Expectations

Please find attached a copy of the 'Expectations of Student Behaviour during Covid-19 recovery period' document which was first issued after Lockdown 1 and has been subsequently revised.

After School Supervised Sport and Physical Activity Sessions

- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until the Easter holiday 3.45pm-4.45pm. Starting on Tuesday 9 March for those year groups in school.
- Students will be able to use the school's outdoor sports facilities with their friends to get some physical activity under their belt after lockdown.
- PE staff will supervise the informal sessions to make sure that their physical activity is safe, and that participants are adhering to Covid-19 protocols.
- The sessions will be open to all year groups, but students will only be able to participate in their year group bubbles.
- Students will be able to choose what activity or activities they do, within reason, but each activity must be approved by a member of the PE department before it starts.
- School equipment can be used but must not be shared between bubbles in the same session.
- Suitable footwear must be worn (i.e., boots or moulded studs for the 3G and trainers for the tennis/basketball courts) as well as sportswear that is suitable for the activity or activities the students choose to do. Students must wear shin pads if they are playing football involving tackling e.g., a small-sided game, or Wembley.
- Changing rooms will be available, but entry will be controlled by a member of the PE department to ensure that there is no overcrowding or mixing of year group bubbles.
- Sessions must be booked in advance by emailing martin.wilson@carres.uk, with bookings being accepted until the end of Break 2 on the day of the session. Students are asked to provide some information about the activity or activities they are hoping to do so that feasibility can be assessed, and the relevant equipment can be organised. Activities that can be supported include small-sided football matches or less structured football activities such as Wembley or headers and volleys, basketball, volleyball (we have outdoor nets that can be put up), Tag Rugby or less structured passing and kicking rugby activities, table tennis, tennis, Kwik Cricket and other striking and fielding activities, fitness training (gym equipment such as skipping ropes, dumbbells and kettlebells can be brought outside), and dodgeball.
- Formal extra-curricular sports sessions will commence after the Easter holidays.

And finally...I said at the outset that we are looking forward to the return of all the students and hopefully we will be able to continue with what we all feel is the best way of education, uninterrupted. I would like to thank you for your kind messages and support, either to my colleagues or to me over the past few weeks as they have helped sustain the morale when energy levels have been sapping, which has been at different times for different people. I feel that we can now look forward with a renewed sense of hope and I look forward to meeting you in person some time soon.

Yours faithfully

N M Law
Headteacher