

5 March 2021



# Ralph Allen School

Respect • Teamwork • Personal Best

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Returning to school

We are so pleased that the students will be returning next week. Although we are desperate for their return, we have taken every precaution to minimise risk and comply with government guidelines. The following are a list of precautions in place.

- Students will continue in year group bubbles. They will have separate zones before school, at break and lunchtimes
- A one-way system is in place around the site allowing students to attend their normal curriculum areas
- There are separate entrances for different year groups with sinks at every entrance
- Face coverings will be worn in recommended areas (More detail on this)
- Students will sanitise their hands when entering all classrooms and wipe the desks before using
- Extra cleaners have been employed to clean regular touched surfaces
- Testing will now take place three times in the first two weeks and then home kits will be available for students and staff
- We will continue to promote good hygiene including 'catch it bin it kill it'
- Public Health England advice will continue to be used in the situation of any outbreaks
- More and more people will continue to be vaccinated

We have travelled this road before, and I know that the new variants are more contagious, but the above measures are in place to keep the community safe.

## Face coverings

The use of face coverings in classrooms is now strongly recommended in all secondary schools. We have debated this issue widely but feel that safety overrides how uncomfortable this may feel. All our efforts are to maintain safety for the community and make sure schools stay open.

Therefore, from Monday 8 March, students will be required to wear face coverings when;

- Entering and leaving school
- On public transport
- When moving around the site
- In classrooms and indoors

This decision hopefully also reassures the staff and students who may be anxious about their return. This recommendation is until the Easter holidays.

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Claverton Down Road, Bath, BA2 7AD

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## Monday 8 March

Below is a reminder of the plan for next week on returning to school. This will be available on our website along with the timetable. The teachers will schedule all the correct lessons so students will find everything on their Teams calendar.

- Key worker and vulnerable students to revert to their year group bubble and will not be in school as a separate group.
- **There will no online period 1 lessons Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**  
(Teachers will be working with individual groups in school during this time)

| Day                       | Year groups in school | Year groups to be tested | Plans for teaching  |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Monday 8 March</b>     | 8 & 11                | 8 & 11                   | Yr 8 and 11 taught in school.<br><b>Online timetable for other years.</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday 9 March</b>    | 9, 12 & 13            | 9, 12 & 13               | Yr 9, 12 & 13 taught in school.<br><b>Online timetable for other years.</b> |
| <b>Wednesday 10 March</b> | 7 & 10                | 7 & 10                   | Yr 7 and 10 taught in school.<br><b>Online timetable for other years.</b>   |
| <b>Thursday 11 March</b>  | 7,8 & 11              | 8 & 11                   | Yr 7, 8 and 11 taught in school.<br><b>Set work for other years online.</b> |
| <b>Friday 12 March</b>    | All students          | 9, 12 & 13               | All years taught in school  |

## Testing

Thank you for your support in testing this week. Apologies about the technology which broke due to the high demand. We wanted to use the same booking service to make life easier for you. However, the electronic system did not agree and decided to break. This was a very stressful day for data who worked very hard on the system and worked with the company to fix the problem. I hope you have all been able to book a test.

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## Social distancing

We will continue to remind students that lockdown is still in operation and outside of school we must all be complying with regulations. All of this is to make sure lockdown 3 is the last one we will face and hopefully schools will never close again.

The students will quickly adapt to the systems in school which are very similar to terms 1 and 2. There may be anxiety about returning which is normal, but the initial days are designed to support reintroduction. Extra support will be available for anyone this week as we return to some level of normality. Please look at the letter regarding equipment sent Wednesday to help prepare for their return.

As always thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate the return to school.

With kind regards

**Andy Greenhough**

**Headteacher**

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