



# Great Wyrley Academy

**A part of the Windsor Academy Trust**

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Dear Parent/Carer,

This week we have had the announcements from the Prime Minister and from the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, regarding the roadmap to the end of lockdown restrictions and the plans for school reopening. We were particularly pleased to hear that schools would be reopening from Monday 8 March; we are looking forward to welcoming our students back into our school once more. You can see the latest guidance from the Department of Education here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak> I wanted to write to you to set out our initial plans for reintroducing our students into school. The DfE has stated that school attendance will be mandatory for all students from Monday 8 March and that schools will have discretion on how to phase the return of students over that week to allow them to be tested on return. We will continue to take a measured approach to ensure that all members of our school community are kept safe.

After an initial programme of three tests in school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. You will need to provide consent for your child to be tested in school, via the link sent to you in Parentmail (please contact the school office if you have not received this invitation or have trouble in returning consent). We will need to plan carefully for this testing and phased return, so this consent needs to be completed by Sunday 28 February.

## **Clinically vulnerable staff and students**

The latest guidance is that Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) staff and students should be supported to work remotely and should not attend school at present. We have previously contacted parents/carers of any CEV students and discussed their needs. Please contact us directly if you have concerns and you have not already spoken to a member of staff.

## **Face coverings**

On their return, students will be expected to wear face coverings when moving around the site and in corridors as they had been before the lockdown. In addition, the DfE have stated that face coverings should be worn in classrooms. This will not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise, for example in PE lessons. This means that students will continue to wear a clean, washable face covering on their return to school. We will be encouraging students to go outside at break and lunchtime – to have some time when they can remove their face coverings.



## Uniform

Teachers will continue to ensure that their classrooms have good airflow and ventilation to reduce the risk of transmission. Students should be reminded to wear suitable layers of clothing (e.g. base layers under uniform and a school jumper on colder days). Please note that all students will be expected to attend school in full uniform.

## Year 11 and Year 13 Grades

On 25 February 2021 Ofqual and the Department for Education published their decisions about how students' grades will be awarded.

**You can see a summary, with links to detailed information, from the Chief Regulator of Ofqual written specifically for students [here](#).**

I know that some students, and indeed yourselves, may feel anxious about the return to school. Please be reassured that the safety of our young people and staff is of paramount importance and our robust risk assessments are regularly updated and reviewed to reflect the latest guidance. Since we returned in September, we have responded immediately to any identified positive cases or any children or staff with symptoms to reduce the risk of transmission. We continue to use a robust procedure to identify contacts and move quickly to ensure that close contacts are sent home to isolate.

In order to facilitate the safe return to schools and, in keeping with the DfE's suggestion that we can use discretion to support our wider reopening, we will be operating a staggered start from March 8 to ensure that all students receive the necessary test. These details will be confirmed early next week once we have received parental consent for testing and we know the numbers of students who need to be tested before returning to lessons.

As ever, thank you for your continued support and cooperation. We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school.

Yours sincerely



Ian Moreton  
Headteacher