



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back to school next week and we would like to thank you for submitting the 'return to school' parental consent form to support our planning.

Students will return to a full curriculum, however, as always, we will ensure this objective is framed within the context of maintaining stringent controls to promote health and safety and minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19. We appreciate that this letter contains a great deal of information regarding our return, but please do take the time to read through the letter and the links with your son/ daughter and if you are unsure or need additional support, then please let us know.

A DfE update on the arrangements for the re-opening of schools can be found here:

[What parents need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19)

Return to school and Student Testing

In line with Government guidance, all students will be offered three Lateral Flow Test (LFT), 3 to 5 days apart. Students will be able to return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result, on their allocated return date. To carry out the requirements for mass student testing and to support the successful re-integration of students back into fulltime education, we will bring students back on a short but phased return. Any students not partaking in testing will be able to attend school in line with the phased return arrangements for their year group.

Please see below for key dates and information:

Test	Key information
1st Student Test	<p>Students will be tested on school site on the dates below. The test should take no longer than 15 minutes and once completed, students should return home immediately and continue with their remote learning.</p> <p>In order to manage the high numbers of tests and to minimise the impact of lessons once students return, <u>it is essential that you only book your test on the date allocated to your year group. Tests booked on the wrong date will not be administered.</u></p> <p>Please click here to book allocated time slot. Please click here for information on how to access the testing centre.</p>
Return to school	<p>Students to arrive by 8.30am through specific Year group entrance and line up in year group registration area. Students will be dismissed at normal time.</p>
2nd & 3rd test	<p>Students will be tested during the school day on the dates below.</p>

Student testing and return to School dates



Year group	1 st Student Test (before return)	Return to school	2 nd Student Test	3 rd Student Test
Year 11, 12, 13	Fri 5 th March	Tues, 9th March	Wed, 10 th March	Mon, 15 th March
Year 10 & 7	Mon 8 th March	Wed, 10th March	Thurs, 11 th March	Tues, 16 th March
Year 8 & 9	Tues 9 th March	Thurs, 11th March	Fri, 12 th March	Wed, 17 th March

Wearing of face masks

All students, unless exempt, will be expected to wear a face mask in classrooms and in communal areas. Please can you ensure your child attends school with a face mask. We recommend that your child also has spare face masks in their blazer or bag in case their mask needs to be replaced during the day. Please click [here](#) for information and a short video on how to wear a face mask.

The wearing of masks in classrooms is an additional preventative measure to reduce the risk of transmission. However, it is important to note that despite wearing a mask, if your child is identified as being in close or direct contact with a positive case, they will still be expected to isolate for 10 days.

Uniform

On return to school, all students should wear full Woodrush uniform including appropriate footwear. Please click [here](#) for our full uniform list. Students should continue to attend in their full Woodrush PE kit on the days they have PE.

We would like to remind you that hooded jumpers, sweatshirts and tracksuit tops are not allowed at any time and will be confiscated if worn on site. Students can wear plain black jumpers or coats if required.

In line with our current uniform policy, we expect every student to attend school every day with the correct equipment. This is even more critical now that sharing of equipment between students or teachers and students will not be allowed. Please refer to the 'return to school' document to see full list of equipment and ensure your child returns to school fully equipped. If you have any concerns or queries regarding uniform, then please contact your child's Head of Year.

Supporting students' wellbeing

The mental health and well-being of our students is paramount to us. To support all students with their return to school we will build into our ASPIRE curriculum the opportunity for students to discuss their feelings and experiences about the current situation.

Students will also take part in the 'Woodrush Ready' programme to help remind students of the routines and expectations in school, supporting them to make a successful transition back into full time education after the last couple of difficult months.

To help us identify our more vulnerable students who may need some additional support due to bereavement or mental health concerns, we ask that you complete the short well-being survey [here](#)



Behaviour and expectations

We will continue to expect the same high standards of conduct, behaviour and attitude to learning however, as in the Autumn term, we do recognise that some students will take slightly longer to re-adjust to their return to school. Our behaviour and expectations policies will continue to include COVID specific restrictions/actions.

As in the Autumn Term, whilst we will be fully staffed, our capacity to deal with more challenging behaviour that some students may present will be reduced due to some of the restrictions placed on schools. It is likely that parents will be contacted to come into school if a student presents significantly challenging behaviour towards staff.

GCSE and A level students

We are aware that students, parents and carers will be anxious for information about our plans for teacher assessments. Please be assured we are working as quickly as we can to finalise our plans which will ensure our students get the grades they deserve and reflect their hard work. We will be holding a **webinar for all students in years 11 and 13, and their parents on Monday 15th March at 5pm**. A link to this webinar will be sent out closer to the time.

Remote Learning

To support the re-opening of school, the delivery of live lessons will cease on Monday 8th March. Assignments and appropriate remote work will continue to be uploaded to Teams. Teachers will not necessarily be online during this time due to teaching and testing commitments within school.

COVID-19 Protecting our school community

We know that many of us are looking forward to returning to something closer to normality. However, can we request that students do not return to school if they are displaying any COVID-19 symptoms or fall into any of the categories below.

When to self-isolate

Self-isolate immediately if:

- you have any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- You have tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus
- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in your support bubble has symptoms and you have been in close contact with them since their symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started
- someone in your support bubble tested positive and you have been in close contact with them since they had the test or in the 48 hours before their test
- You have been told you have been in contact with someone who tested positive – find out what to do if you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

- If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.
- Keep them at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms started.
- Call School to report your child's absence via 01564823777.



- Arrange for a PCR test via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.
- If your child has symptoms, try and keep them as far away from other members of your household as possible. It is especially important that they stay away from anyone who is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable with whom you share a household.

If a Positive result:

- If they test positive, they must isolate for 10 days. All other household members, even if well, must self isolate for 10 days.
- The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became symptomatic or from the date of their positive LFT or PCR test if they were asymptomatic.
- If a member of the household develops symptoms during the isolation period, they should book a PCR Test via the link above. Should they receive a positive test result, they will need to restart their isolation period for 10 days.

When to keep your child self-isolating

Keep your child self-isolating if they have any of these symptoms after the 10 days:

- a high temperature or feeling hot and shivery
- a runny nose or sneezing
- feeling or being sick
- diarrhoea

Only stop self-isolating when these symptoms have gone.

If your child has diarrhoea or are being sick, keep them at home until 48 hours after they have stopped.

If a negative result:

- If your child receives a negative test result, they may return to school as usual providing they are well enough to do so, and all household members continue with normal activities.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information

Further information is available at: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to praise our students and families for the positive and resilient way in which they have faced such unique circumstances. We are incredibly proud of all our students; they have developed skills in independence, perseverance, and resilience throughout these challenging times.

As we look forward to all our students returning, it is important to recognise that while many of our young people will be justifiably excited to return to school, others may be feeling worried or anxious.



Woodrush High School

An Academy for Students Aged 11-18

Please know that, as always, our staff will be there to support students during the process of returning to school, to ensure that they settle quickly.

Thank you for your on-going support.