

Dear Parents / Carers,

May I thank you for your ongoing support in what continues to be a difficult time for students, families and Sixth Form staff.

As you may be aware, the Prime Minister made an announcement on Monday 22nd February 2021, which included a directive on the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8th March. Here is a summary of the announcement and what this means for Longley Park Sixth Form.

In taking the decision to re-open schools and colleges the Government has taken into account:

- The severe impact for children and young people from missing out on classroom-based education, with clear evidence that further time out of school/college is detrimental for cognitive and academic development, learning, health and wellbeing
- Public Health England studies continues to show that infection rates in schools and colleges mirror infection rates in the wider community, suggesting they are not the main driver of infections

In summary, Government guidance says:

- schools and colleges will **reopen to all students from Monday 8th March 2021.**
In line with this guidance, Longley Park Sixth Form will be open to all students from Monday 8th March. Students will initially follow the blended learning timetable that was in place before the current Lockdown. This means that students will have the majority of their lessons in the Sixth Form, with Remote Learning tasks and activities set for the rest of the week. Timetables are available on Cedar.
- staff and students in secondary schools and colleges **must wear face coverings in all areas**, including classrooms and on transport, and **other areas in school where 2 metres social distancing cannot be maintained.** This is a temporary measure until Easter, and as with all measures, the government will keep it under review.
Longley Park Sixth Form will implement this guidance alongside the existing hygiene and social distancing measures in place in the building.
- all students will be offered **COVID-19 tests as they return** to the classroom.
We aim to invite students who have requested tests to come in to the Sixth Form from as soon as possible. Further information about this process and how to request testing will be sent to you later today. After an initial programme of three tests in sixth form, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. Our ambition is to complete tests for students in the Sixth Form within the first week of opening, but recognise it could take longer depending on the numbers consenting to take the tests.
- sixth form staff will also be provided with two tests to use each week at home
- After the initial 3 tests in sixth form for all students testing sites already set up will remain open **only for students who have been identified as finding it difficult to test themselves at home**

We understand that students and parents/carers may be anxious about the return to Sixth Form after such a long break. Please be assured that we are working hard to make sure that we are compliant with the latest Government guidance when Sixth Form re-opens.

If you have any concerns about arrangements, please contact us on 0114 2625757.

With very best wishes

Mo Nisbet
Principal