



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
James McNamara BA(Hons); NPQH

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Return to School and Ofqual Grade Awarding Update

Thursday, 4 March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming back all our students to school next week and this letter sets out some key information which will be useful to students, parents and carers.

Arrangements for COVID 19 Lateral Flow Device Testing

When students return to school during the week commencing 8 March we will be delivering a testing programme for students without coronavirus symptoms. This will use COVID-19 tests known as lateral flow devices. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and beyond through asymptomatic transmission.

In line with national guidance, we will test students three times as they return to school. After this, students will be issued with home testing kits so that they can complete lateral flow tests at home. The first on-site test will take place on the first day students return to school. On their first day in school students will remain with their year group bubble and will be supervised to complete work set by their teachers. The second and third tests will take place during lesson time over the following two weeks.

Students will return to school from the date set out below.

Monday 8 March	Year 11 and Year 13
Tuesday 9 March	Year 10 and Year 12
Wednesday 10 March	Year 9 and Year 7
Thursday 11 March	Year 8

Students should continue to complete the work set for them by their teachers as part of our remote learning provision until their return to school. Students in Years 10-13 are required to bring their laptops with them fully charged on their first day. All students are asked to bring a packed lunch for the first week. Parents and carers of students entitled to free school meals will receive advance payment of vouchers to the value of a £15 per week up to and including Friday 12 March. School will remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children throughout the week commencing 8 March.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. Results will be emailed to students' school email address. If a student tests positive, you will be contacted by school staff. In line with national guidance, the pupil will need to stay at home and self-isolate for ten days. If your child has had Covid-19 in the last 90 days please complete the [form](#) to let us know and they will not need to be tested.

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>



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Getting to and from school

Students should avoid public transport, if possible. However, the school bus service will operate in the same way as it did in the autumn term. The 17S service has been discontinued. The "Sixes" service is an alternative. A face mask is compulsory on buses and so we are asking that parents provide their children with two washable face masks to allow for overnight cleaning. There is ample cycle storage space in school for students wishing to cycle to school. Any student who wishes to cycle to school must wear a safety helmet. Parents dropping off or picking up children at school by car will be able to use a designated and supervised area in the entrance turning circle. We ask that parents do not leave their cars or stay to talk to other parents. It is important that students do not gather in groups on the way to and from school but instead make their way directly. Local businesses in the neighbourhood of the school are out of bounds.

Year Group 'Bubbles'

In line with government guidance, the school plan for re-opening is based on the following key principles:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home;
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene;
- enhanced cleaning arrangements;
- mass asymptomatic testing;
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace and reducing contacts between those in school wherever possible to minimise potential for infection.

In order to achieve this, we have timetabled year group 'bubbles' in six separate areas of the school.

- Years 7, 8 and 9 each have their own year group base together with a designated playground to use at break and lunchtime. When accessing specialist teaching such as PE lessons their movement will be supervised.
- Years 10 and 11 are based in the Maths and English Blocks respectively and also have supervised access to specialist classrooms for options subjects. The VI Form are based in B/C Block, with access to F Block and the Sixth Form Centre.

All teaching spaces and entry points are well equipped with hand sanitiser dispensers and students will be reminded to use them regularly. Room lay-out with forward facing desks, floor marking, signage and supervision will reinforce safe spacing. Once in school, students will be based in one of our designated year group zones and teachers will move to students. Arrangements are in place for enhanced cleaning of all teaching spaces.

The school day

We will continue to operate a staggered start and end of day. Form tutors will be available in form rooms from 8.40 each day. Students arriving by school bus will be escorted from the bus bay to their year group base. For students who do not use the school buses the staggered start times are as follows:

- VI Form should arrive at school for 8.40,
- Year 10 and 11 for 8.50
- Years 7-9 for 9.00.

At the end of the day:

- VI Form will leave at 3.30,
- Year 10 and 11 at 3.35
- Years 7, 8 and 9 at 3.40.



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Lunch

During the first week of school students will need to bring a packed lunch. From Monday, 15th March students may bring a packed lunch to school or pre-order one from our on-site caterers using pre-order online portal (<http://preorder.ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk:8006/Portal/login>) as per the autumn term arrangements. If you would like to register for the pre-order services please email info@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Uniform and equipment

We expect students to be in full school uniform. Sharing of equipment requires careful management by subject staff and so, to keep this to a minimum, it is important that students come to school fully equipped. Students should stock their pencil case with pens, pencils, eraser, ruler, protractor, compass, glue stick, scientific calculator, pocket dictionary and highlighters.

Face Masks

Government guidance on face masks has changed. Students will be expected to wear a face mask during movement on corridors and in classrooms where social distancing is not possible. The government have informed schools that this advice will be reviewed at the end of term. Parents who wish their child to be exempt from wearing a face mask should complete this [form](#). Students using buses must wear a face mask when travelling to and from school. For this reason, it is expected that parents provide students with two washable face masks. When removing face coverings pupils must wash their hands immediately beforehand and dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a sealable plastic bag, and then wash their hands again. Students will be given training on how to use face masks correctly.

Behaviour

As we prepare to return and open the school to all students, it is important that student behaviour and compliance with health and safety rules is excellent. Our behaviour and discipline policy sets out our expected standards. All students returning to school will have a health and safety induction and our procedures for operating safely will be clearly explained. Failure to abide by the rules and guidance on safety and social distancing will be considered a serious breach of the behaviour policy.

Ofqual & Grade Awarding 2021

Ofqual and the DfE published their plan for grade awarding at the end of last week and we would like to set out clearly how the process will work so that all our students, parents and carers have the reassurance they need. Students will be graded by teacher judgment and not graded by an algorithm.

Schools have until 18 June to determine and register centre assessed grades with the examination boards. School assessments can continue throughout the period up to the final moderation and grade entry so that there is plenty of time for students to demonstrate what they know and can do. Students will only be assessed on what they have been taught and teachers will tell students what evidence is used to arrive at the final grade. A range of evidence will be used including teachers' continuous assessment over time as well as mock examinations and exam board provided questions. No single piece of evidence will be a limiting factor in the determination of a grade and teachers will work hard to support all students to do their best.



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Students, parents and carers will be kept well informed about progress. Year 11 and 13 Full Reports have been issued and include a projected and target grade provided by teachers. We will update this information in two further interim reports at the end of April and the end of May, taking account of mock examinations, continuous assessment and exam board set tasks. This will provide reassurance and information about progress and an indication of where students are heading in terms of a final grade. Parents Evenings will be held for Year 11 on 18 March and Year 13 on 31 March.

Examination Results Days will be held in school on Tuesday 10 August for A Level and Thursday 12 August for GCSE. Students will have the right to appeal their grades. The School will retain the evidence for awarded grades in school.

Parents' Evenings

In the interests of safety, parents' evenings this year will be managed remotely using School Cloud, an online system for both booking and conducting virtual appointments. Please see this [link](#) for information on how to book. Dates of parents' evenings are as follows:

Year 11 Parents' Evening	18 March	
Year 12 Parents' Evening	24 March	
Year 13 Parents' Evening	31 March	
Year 10 Parents' Evening	29 April*	
Year 9 Parents' Evening	13 May	Forms: R, C, L and B
Year 9 Parents' Evening	26 May *	Forms: E, N, U and S
Year 7 Parents' Evening	9 June*	Forms: R, C, L and B
Year 7 Parents' Evening	17 June *	Forms: E, N, U and S
Year 8 Parents' Evening	7 July	Forms: R, C, L and B
Year 8 Parents' Evening	15 July	Forms: E, N, U and S

*Please note change of date

What to do if you are unwell/Quarantined

Students, parents, carers or visitors, must not come to school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus. Details of the procedures to follow can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>. If a student at school presents with symptoms, then they will be looked after in isolation and parents and carers contacted to collect them. Students who have recently returned from a country included in the government's quarantine regulations should not attend school until their period of quarantine is complete.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Ecclesbourne community for your help and support over the past several months. We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone or email.



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As always, please do get in touch with us here at school if you need any further information or support.

Best wishes and stay safe,

James McNamara

Head Teacher