



Hanham Matters

Weekly bulletin for Hanham Woods Academy

Friday 5th March 2021

Last week saw an incredible effort by staff, parents/carers and community volunteers to undertake our mass COVID-19 testing onsite. We tested over 700 students during the week - this represents about 90% of the Academy population. This will be repeated on Monday and Tuesday this week and will add to the already strong systems in place across the Academy that mean our staff and students (and their families) are safer than they would have otherwise been. I am so grateful to everyone who has contributed to the testing, grateful to parents/carers for providing consent and so impressed with our young people who have been courteous and polite throughout. The students will be undertaking their 3rd test in the Academy on Thursday or Friday before we distribute home testing kits and you begin home testing twice a week. There will be further guidance about this process distributed later this week.

This week sees the return to face-to-face teaching for all students. I cannot begin to tell you how pleased and genuinely excited I am to welcome back all our young people to their Academy. **Year 11 students will return to the Academy on Tuesday with all other Year Groups returning on Wednesday (Please note: No school lunches will be available on Tuesday).** We will keep our staggered arrival and leaving arrangements; however, there has been a slight change to some timings:

- Year 7 arrive 8.15am-8.25am // leave 2.50pm
- Year 8 arrive 8.25am-8.35am // leave 3.00pm
- Year 9 arrive 8.15am-8.25am // leave 2.55pm
- Year 10 arrive 8.25am-8.35am // leave 3.05pm
- Year 11 arrive 8.35am-8.45am // leave 3.10pm

Please try to ensure your child arrives no earlier and no later than their designated time slot. It is also essential that students do not wait around at the end of the day. They need to go straight home, not via the park or a shop. I am very grateful for your support with this to ensure our community is safe.

On the first day the students return to the Academy they will have an extended tutor time to cover some key messages and check-in with all the students. They will then follow their normal timetable from period 3. Timetables will be re-issued during the extended tutor period.

It is essential that we continue to follow the systems of controls that were in place before Christmas to reduce the risk of infection. These are:

- **Do not send your child into the Academy if they have COVID-19 symptoms**
- **Wash / sanitise hands regularly**
- **Keep left, keep moving, keep apart when moving around the Academy**
- **Follow one-way systems**
- **Do not interact with other Year Groups**
- **Keep 2m away from all adults at all times**
- **Clean tables, chairs and equipment after use**

In addition, we will be insisting that staff have all windows and doors open at all times. This may mean it is colder than usual in classrooms. Students will be able to keep coats on at the teacher's discretion.

New guidance has been issued relating to the wearing of face coverings inside for secondary age students. **A face covering is now a required part of uniform. We will be asking students to wear face coverings at all times indoors when social distancing cannot be maintained.** Students can remove their face coverings outside if they wish. Please do inform a member of the SEND team or your child's Head of House if they are exempt from wearing a face covering on medical grounds.



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It is essential for the mental health and wellbeing of young people that we return to normal high expectations and routines as soon as possible. **We will be insisting that full Academy uniform is worn by all students. A reminder of what is acceptable is available on our website. Trainers are not part of full Academy uniform; hoodies are not part of full Academy uniform; black jeans are not part of full Academy uniform. On days when your child has a PE lesson we are asking them to wear their full PE kit as we cannot use the changing rooms. If your child wishes to wear a tracksuit over the top of their PE kit it must be black. They can also wear their long sleeve rugby shirt or fleece. On PE days only, they can of course wear trainers.** Part of our support of their mental health is fostering a sense of belonging and reducing inequalities; uniform helps us to do this. Please do support us in supporting your child by ensuring they have the correct uniform every day. If there are any individual issues with this please do contact Mr Coulstring or your child's Head of House.

Finally, as this period of partial school closure comes to an end, can I take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work and support. The vast majority of our students have completed the work set to a high standard and whilst staff at the Academy have worked hard to deliver learning in new ways, without your support our young people would not have stayed in education as well as they have. You may have mixed emotions about your child coming back to school, and whilst there are several 'funny' articles about parents/carers enjoying the freedom of no more home schooling, many of you will have enjoyed having your child at home; you will have become closer as a family; you will have been for walks and exercised together. It would be lovely to think that some of these things can continue after school and at weekends. Young people have also developed resilience and learned to be more independent in their studies. This again is something we can draw upon as they move forward. **If you would like additional support for your child or for your family please do reach out to your child's Head of House who will be able to offer or signpost to the most appropriate support.**

Many thanks

Mr Kneller | Academy Principal

WEEK BEGINNING 8 th MARCH 2021	
DATE	EVENT
Monday 8 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lateral Flow Testing for Years 11, 10 and 7
Tuesday 9 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lateral Flow Testing for Years 8 and 9Year 11 Students Return to the Academy
Wednesday 10 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All Year Groups Return to the Academy
Thursday 11 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lateral Flow Testing for Years 11, 10 and 7Virtual Principal's Forum 17:30
Friday 12 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lateral Flow Testing for Years 8 and 9

WEEK BEGINNING 15 th MARCH 2021	
DATE	EVENT
Monday 15 th March	
Tuesday 16 th March	
Wednesday 17 th March	
Thursday 18 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 10 Parents Evening- 16:00-19:00
Friday 19 th March	