

Tudor Grange Samworth Academy



A Church of England School

24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you are aware of the Prime Minister's announcements on Monday. We know that this will have been good news to many of you and we are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school. This letter updates you on what we now need to do to plan for this return.

Current guidance and information

The main operational guidance that we are currently reviewing is here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

and the main media release responding to frequently asked questions is here:

[All students to return to school and college from 8 March and what you need to know - Education in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Primary Children

All PRIMARY children will return on Monday March 8th. Children will remain in their class bubble and will be taught in their usual classrooms. Playtimes and lunchtimes will continue to be staggered with children given separate areas and timings so that mixing is minimised.

Children will continue to limit the amount of equipment they bring to school.

Arrival and collection times will continue to be staggered and we will reissue details of this next week – it will be very similar to the routines we adopted back in September.

You will be able to access full wrap around care from March 8th. Please contact office@samworth.tgaacademy.org.uk to confirm your requirements for care. It is important that you do this this week please to enable us to plan.

Secondary Pupils

We will be planning a staggered return so that we can ensure that we have offered testing to all pupils. This is essential to ensure we re-open to all pupils safely by reducing the number of asymptomatic cases on site. It will take time to plan this as we will be very careful about how we will conduct mass testing in a safe and controlled manner – we will take as long as we feel is necessary with the health and safety of everyone at the heart of our decision making.

The other main changes in the new guidance that I want to alert you to are the use of face coverings **in classrooms** for secondary age pupils and staff and that attendance on-site will be mandatory for **all** pupils except for those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and have received shielding letters from their GP practice. We will write to you with more details about how we intend to apply the guidance.

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Awarding of qualifications for summer 2021 examination series

We are expecting an announcement on the outcome of the awarding of qualifications by Thursday of this week. We will write to you as soon as we have these details about how we will apply these here and what this means for you. **It is essential that year 11 continue to undertake revision and preparation for mock examinations** as it is likely that we will conduct these in classroom- based settings shortly after you have return to school.

Our next steps

We will continue to contact secondary parents to obtain consent for testing.

We will look at the guidance very carefully over the next few days and leaders from across the Trust will meet to discuss and share their planning. We plan to issue our arrangements for re-opening **by Monday 1st March**. We will keep our communications as concise as possible so that we can ask for your responses to these details by the end of Wednesday 3rd March, so that we can make any necessary final adjustments to our planning based on your feedback.

We are doing everything we can to ensure a positive and happy start to the return to school for our children and I assure you that we will proceed with great care and caution over the coming weeks. We will update you and to provide as much clarity as we can to support this aim. All that we can ask is that you are as thoughtful and communicative as you have always been, so that we can continue support you and your child as we all return to something closer to 'normal'.

Yours faithfully

Mrs S Roach
Executive Principal