



Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of **Secondary students**,

You are all aware that the expectation is that schools will open from Monday 8th March to all students and I have shared with you already that a staggered return for secondary pupils will be necessary to ensure that we have offered lateral flow tests to all our students.

Now that we have carefully considered the guidance documents, I am able to share with you our proposed planning for the return of students and staff, and the plans for testing.

Actions we have taken to ensure a safe return to school

We have reviewed our risk assessments in light of the new guidance, the key actions we have taken are:

- We have ensured that all hand sanitisers remain functioning and have been refilled to ensure we can re-establish **good routines for hand hygiene**
- We have worked with our cleaning contractor, Ridgecrest to ensure that our **enhanced cleaning** of the whole school will begin again on the 8th March
- We have reviewed the school site to ensure all **signage supporting safe practices, such as one-way movement around the site**, remains in place, clear and visible to all staff and pupils
- We have reviewed our map of the site to check that we have provided adequate guidance for staff so that they know how to ensure **good ventilation** of every room in the school
- We have contacted all staff and pupils who are **clinically extremely vulnerable to ensure they continue to shield until Easter**

I will be writing to you again next week, shortly before we all begin to return to site, to remind you of the procedures we all need to follow to ensure no-one with symptoms of the virus attends our site and to remind you of the actions we will take if someone develops symptoms whilst they are on site.

Plans for testing

We have been testing staff who are working on site and students when they attend TG Small School for the first time. These tests are intended to detect anyone who may have the virus but not show any symptoms, and they will be a key control measure helping us to minimise transmission of the virus and keep our school open and safe for everyone.

The expectation is that we will test **all** students three times, with each test being 3 -5 days apart, on their return to school. Students can return to school after their first negative test result.

The following timetable has been planned for student testing:

Year 11	1st test	Lessons begin onsite	2nd test	3rd test
	Friday 5 th March	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Friday 12 th March
Year 10	1st test	Lessons begin onsite	2nd test	3rd test
	Friday 5 th March	Monday 8 th March	Weds. 10 th March	Monday 15 th March

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Year 9	1 st test	Lessons begin onsite	2 nd test	3 rd test
	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Thursday 11 th March	Monday 15 th March

Year 8	1 st test	Lessons begin onsite	2 nd test	3 rd test
	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Thursday 11 th March	Tuesday 16 th March

Year 7	1 st test	Lessons begin onsite	2 nd test	3 rd test
	Tuesday 9 th March	Weds. 10 th March	Friday 12 th March	Tuesday 16 th March

On Wednesday 3rd March parents will be sent a text message which will inform them of their child's COVID test appointment in school. Please support us by ensuring that your child attends as promptly as possible.

All staff will be expected to be working on site from Monday 8th March. Students currently attending small school will follow their normal timetable from the 8th March, and so staff will be teaching these students in the classroom as well as delivering to students who remain at home.

Following the initial three tests in school, students will be required to use the home testing kits to administer tests twice a week. At this point, we will close the testing centre as it is currently set up and establish a much smaller testing centre for students who are not confident in administering tests at home or who require additional support.

Thank you to parents who have already given consent for their child to be tested – you are helping us to make sure we are able to keep the school open to all students. If you have not already provided consent for your child to be tested, then please complete this by Monday 1st March.

Wearing of face coverings

On their return to school, students will be required to wear masks in all indoor areas where 2 metre distancing cannot be maintained, including classrooms. We understand that wearing a mask all day may be uncomfortable, therefore we will be encouraging students to remove their masks at break times and lunchtimes when they are outside.

Children who are exempt from wearing masks will be issued with a pin badge so that the wider school community are aware of their exemption.

Senior leaders will work with students / parents where there are concerns about this. Our approach will be one of encouragement and of praise for those who are doing all they can to protect their community and support us in doing all that we can to keep the school open and everyone attending on site. As with the Autumn Term, we are expecting high levels of compliance with this measure and senior leaders will work hard to encourage any students without face masks to comply.

50 Trenant Road Leicester LE2 6UA Tel: 01162 780232

office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk

www.samworth.tgacademy.org.uk





We hope that everyone in the school community will do all they can to keep themselves and others as safe as possible.

Staff will be wearing face coverings in all corridors and where social distancing cannot be maintained. As we have created a teacher zone within classrooms that allows teachers to remain 2 metres from students, teachers will be able to deliver key sections of the lesson from within this zone without a face mask.

Arrangements for awarding qualifications 2021

Many of you will be aware that the details for awarding grades this year were published yesterday; links to key documents can be found [here](#). We have not yet had time to work on a detailed response to this guidance, but we will provide clarity on our approach as soon as we are able to. There is a meeting with leaders from across the Trust early next week. We are clear that we will be conducting assessments based on the **year 11 trial examinations** that should have taken place in January from **Monday 15th March; we will share more detailed arrangements for year 11 next week.**

Finally

I know many of you are looking forward to returning to something closer to normality and we are certainly looking forward to seeing more staff and students on site. In the meantime, thank you so much for all you have done to ensure that your child has remained engaged with our remote provision, we feel very proud of the provision we have offered and of the way students have responded to this. Ofsted were impressed with our provision and I will share details of our inspection with you once the report is published.

Your feedback on the details I have shared in this letter is important to us, please provide any comments by emailing office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk and we will collate your feedback and adjust our planning where we feel this is necessary. Most of all, please talk to us if you have unanswered questions or concerns and we will prioritise answering these queries, your first port of call is always your child's form tutor.

Thank you so much for your continued positive messages of thanks and support, we have very much cherished this.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Roach
Executive Principal