

5 March 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

From the many conversations I have had over the course of this week with staff and students, it is abundantly clear that we are all really looking forward to seeing our students, and each other, again next week. On a personal note, whilst our ambitious programme for administering Lateral Flow Tests to all our students next week is going to make our return exceptionally busy, I am truly full of excitement about seeing our students again.

You will know from my previous communication that the plan and logistical operation of returning our students to school safely is an incredibly ambitious one; I am enormously thankful to all staff and to our parent volunteers that are contributing their time to support us with this. Alongside this, we recognise that the logistics of returning our students back to school in a staggered manner may have provided additional challenges for families and we are incredibly grateful for your support with this. However, reintegrating our students back into school in year group bubbles, broken down further into tutor groups, minimises the number of students on site whilst we are administering the first set of Lateral Flow Tests. Thank you again for your support, I can only describe your understanding and cooperation over recent months as extraordinary - the NSG community spirit never fails to generate a feeling of inner warmth and absolute pride.

### A reminder about our return to face to face teaching

As a reminder, the following are the dates that each year group will be returning to school and you will now have received specific information relating to this and the details of our Lateral Flow Testing programme:

Date	Year Groups
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10 and Year 12
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 and Year 9
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 have been undertaking their remote assessments this week and these will continue as planned next week also. These year groups have received specific details relating to the dates and timings for their Lateral Flow Test to ensure these do not interfere with their internal assessments.

As students will need to wait outside, at a 2 metre distance, before they enter the Sports Hall for their Lateral Flow Test, I would strongly advise them to ensure they have a warm coat with them, in the event of adverse weather conditions. It is also essential that they have a face covering with them and that they are wearing this upon their arrival at school.



When students enter the Sports Hall for their Lateral Flow Test, they must ensure that they keep their face covering on at all times, other than when they are taking the test itself. One-way systems and social distancing must be adhered to within the Sports Hall and arrangements have been made to facilitate this. We are fortunate to have a Sports Hall that is the equivalent area of a double basketball court to be able to use as our Lateral Flow Test site. We have included some images of the layout of the Sports Hall, as well as a short video of how to administer the test, on our website for reference:

<https://www.nsg.northants.sch.uk/page/?title=COVID%2D19+Rapid+Testing&pid=203>

**From Monday, we will return to the procedures that were in place before Lockdown:**

## Attendance

We would like to remind you that attendance will be mandatory again from the date at which your child's year group is expected to be back in school. During the period of Lockdown, the government made it clear that no parent or carer would be penalised for their child's non-attendance at school. Now that circumstances have changed, the usual school rules apply and we expect, and look forward to, all students attending school if they are fit to do so. However, students should not attend school if they have COVID-19 related symptoms or live with someone that has COVID-19, or COVID-19 related symptoms. All students are expected to attend school in full school uniform and our school transport will be fully operational from the morning of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Students are reminded to ensure that they keep their face covering on at all times whilst using the dedicated transport.

## Our system of protective measures

We have always been incredibly proud of the behaviour of our students and now, more than ever, it is important that students continue to follow the high expectations we have of them. Whilst on site, students will continue to remain within their own year group bubbles and will be expected not to mix with other year groups when on the school site. This is a very important part of our transmission control measures. Zoned areas will continue to be demarcated in the outside areas to support students with this during break times and lunchtimes. Our one-way systems will remain in operation across the school site for students and staff. Signage is in place across our site to remind students of the expectation of this. Students must ensure that they have their NSG lanyards with them upon their return to school. This will also support them to identify their outdoor 'zones', which are all colour coded.

As before, students will be expected to maintain good hand hygiene and wear a face covering in all communal areas and corridors where it is not possible to maintain a 2 metre distance. Additionally, we will be encouraging students to wear a face covering in lessons, on a temporary basis until Easter, as part of our increased measures for keeping our school community safe and I welcome your support with this.

## Lunchtime arrangements

Lunchtime arrangements will remain as they were prior to Lockdown and we will continue to monitor these arrangements and review them again after Easter. We will be offering a catering service at lunchtime only and each year group will be allocated a dedicated food servery to minimise the mixing of groups. Students wishing to



bring in a packed lunch can of course continue to do so. Please remember that they will not be able to store this in their lockers.

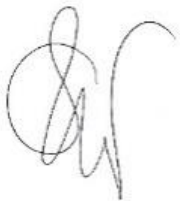
### **Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating**

As a further reminder, if your child has recently received a letter informing them that they are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, and therefore shielding, or if there has been a change in their medical circumstances, please do make sure that you inform us by emailing Mrs Boddy at [aboddy@nsg.northants.sch.uk](mailto:aboddy@nsg.northants.sch.uk) as soon as possible. This will allow us to make the necessary arrangements to ensure your child receives our full support.

A small number of our students will still be unable to attend school in line with the public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are in close contact of someone who has COVID-19. We will continue to provide Remote Learning activities for these students to support their ongoing educational needs.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

With very best wishes,



**Cristina Taboada-Naya | Headteacher  
Northampton School for Girls**

