

9 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This letter is an update letter to the Wootton Academy Trust letter issued on February 26 which explained the arrangements for Lateral Flow Device [LFD] Testing and the return to face-to-face education on Monday 15 March, once all pupils had been given the opportunity to take their LFD tests.

To date, around 75% of learners have come in school to take LFD tests and so far, all results have been negative.

A huge thank you to all Trust staff who have supported us so that we could offer testing to those who took part. I would also like to thank the governors who volunteered to come in and support us.

Information will be communicated with you in the next week regarding the distribution of home testing kits for pupils.

### **Monday 15 March**

We are very much looking forward to the return of all pupils on Monday 15 March.

All pupils will be expected to be in full uniform which includes shoes, blazer and year group lanyard.

Please start to prepare your child for returning to school, next Monday, including packing their bag, gathering equipment such as pens, pencils, a ruler and calculator and ensuring they have their timetable.

### ***Next week the timetable will be WEEK 1.***

School reopens at the normal time, with pupils seated in classrooms by 8.35am. The school day will continue to end at 2:30 pm.

We will have an induction period at the start of Monday 15 March to allow us to re-establish our routines with pupils.

All learners are expected to return to school with attendance procedures and expectations returning to normal, unless they are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV).

### **Children identified as CEV**

If your child is identified as CEV, please share a copy/screenshot of the letter you will have received telling your child to continue to learn from home. This should be sent to [attendance@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@wootton.beds.sch.uk)

If your child is CEV [or self-isolating] they should keep up with the learning that is taking place in school. Work will be set and accessed by pupils via Teams. This will be clearly labelled as a 'one click' portal for all subjects and year groups within the same Team area.

### **Covid-19 symptoms and reporting absence**

It is very important that your child does not come to school if:

- ❖ they display any Covid-19 symptoms
- ❖ they or anyone in their household tests positive for Covid-19
- ❖ they or anyone in their household is waiting for a Covid-19 test result
- ❖ they return from travel abroad \*in this instance you must inform us before your child attends school

This is the case even if they have had a negative result from a Lateral Flow Test.

All absence should be reported to [attendance@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@wootton.beds.sch.uk)

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 please let us know as soon as possible at [covid19@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:covid19@wootton.beds.sch.uk)

### **Travel to and from school**

School buses will be running as normal. Please could I ask you to remind your children to:

- ❖ Socially distance where possible when travelling to school
- ❖ Sit with the same pupils on the bus each day
- ❖ Wear face coverings on the bus

We anticipate that many parents/carers will continue to transport their children to and from school each day, for the time being. Where this is the case, please aim to arrive well-before the start of the school day, around 8:15 am and aim to collect pupils after 2:45 to allow time for the buses to depart. We would ask that you remind your child not to share lifts with others.

### **Arrangements for PE**

Arrangements for PE will remain the same for the next two weeks, most pupils will use the changing rooms to change into PE kit, with a number of pupils completing a lesson in school uniform only changing their shoes for trainers.

At the end of term, we will review these arrangements with a view to moving to all pupils changing into PE kit from the start of the summer term.

### **Lunch arrangements**

Our lunch arrangements will remain the same with pupils able to purchase food and drink on site. If your child receives free school meals, these will be available in the usual way.

Many pupils brought packed lunches so they had less queuing during break, but all pupils should bring in a bottle of water each day – as the water fountains remain switched off.

### **Health and Safety measures**

Our health and safety measures remain almost entirely the same as previously.

- ❖ We will continue to use year group specific gates
- ❖ We will continue to teach in year group bubbles
- ❖ We will continue to stagger breaks in zoned areas
- ❖ We will continue to expect everyone to sanitise their hands every time they enter and leave a room, or enter a building

## Face coverings

The latest HM Government guidance on face coverings was issued on March 8 2021.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/967285/Face\\_coverings\\_in\\_education-March-2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/967285/Face_coverings_in_education-March-2021.pdf)

This advice states:

*Where pupils and students in year 7 and above (and their equivalents) are educated, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff, pupils and students when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.*

*Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils and students when outdoors on the premises.*

*In addition, we now also recommend that in those settings where pupils and students in year 7 and above (and their equivalents) are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms, in other learning environments such as workshops, and during activities unless social distancing can be maintained.*

*This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.*

Therefore, we recommend that pupils wear face coverings in the classroom and we hope that parents/carers will encourage their children to follow this recommendation. However, in line with the guidance, no pupil will be denied education on the grounds that they are not wearing a face covering.

Teaching staff will be provided with visors for when they are teaching, to support communication. However, they will be expected to wear a face covering at any time that they leave the zone at the front of the class that indicates they are at 2m distance.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs McMorn

Head of School