



# Hebburn Comprehensive School

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DRT/KM

2 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Return to School Update

There were a number of significant announcements from the government last week, and I wanted to provide you with an initial update before pupils return to school **from** Monday 8 March.

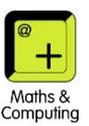
As part of the government's full re-opening plan (from 8 March 2021), you will be aware that schools have been asked to take part in an asymptomatic mass testing programme. Thank you to the 600+ parents and carers who have completed the online consent form that was sent out via text message on Tuesday 23 February. If we do not receive consent by **Wednesday 3 March**, we will assume that your consent has **not** been given. If you did not receive the text, please contact the school on 0191 483-3199, so arrangements can be made for a consent form to be completed. Whilst testing is not compulsory, I would encourage as many pupils as possible to take part. The test is really straightforward and is an additional safety measure to help keep everyone safe.

Where consent has been given, pupils aged 12 – 16 will self-administer three tests (over the first two weeks) on their return to school, to allow them to get used to doing this before home testing kits are provided by the government. Pupils aged 11 will receive support with the administering of their tests. We are waiting for further clarification on how home testing will work and will share this information when we receive it. The current plan from the government is that pupils will do the initial three tests in school, with all future testing done at home. Information about how your child will take their test can be found [here](#).

Due to the first test having to take place before pupils return to school, we will be staggering our re-opening plan, so we are able to carry out the tests safely. This is in line with the guidance for secondary schools. The government has said that we must prioritise exam year groups first, so pupils in Years 10 and 11 will be tested first and will return to school first. In order to do this, we are starting our testing programme on Friday 5 March.

Please note the information below:

Year Group	Test Date (for those with consent)	Return to face-to-face teaching <b>Attendance is mandatory for all pupils</b>
<b>11</b>	Friday 5 March	Monday 8 March
<b>10</b>	Monday 8 March (am)	Tuesday 9 March
<b>9</b>	Monday 8 March (pm)	Tuesday 9 March
<b>7</b>	Tuesday 9 March	Wednesday 10 March
<b>8</b>	Wednesday 10 March	Thursday 11 March



- To ensure social distancing, we will be sending a text message with a specific time slot for testing.
- Remote learning will continue until pupils return to face-to-face teaching.

Please note the following information:

- Testing will take place in the school's main hall and will be carried out by school staff who have completed all of the relevant training. It is extremely important that pupils turn up on time for their appointment, so the process runs smoothly. Pupils should be wearing a face covering on the day of testing, unless exempt.
- Pupils should arrive at the gate next to the school's main reception at the time specified in the text message.
- Critical worker and vulnerable pupils will still be able to attend school while the testing programme is being rolled out, as per current arrangements.
- Pupils do not need to wear school uniform on the day of testing, **but they must be in full school uniform on their full return to the classroom (date is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> column of the table).** **The uniform policy will be in operation from Monday 8 March. Please ensure that you check the website for details. Pupils should continue to wear their PE kit on the days they have PE (dark-coloured tracksuit bottoms and/or sensible dark-coloured sports leggings may be worn).**
- Trained school staff will be at the main hall to greet pupils and will take them through the process, including when to sanitise their hands, how to self-administer the test and how to follow the one-way system.
- We have set up the hall in a COVID-secure way and staff will be wearing all of the requisite PPE.
- I realise that there may be some apprehension from some pupils, but please don't worry. The testing process is quite straightforward and staff will be on hand to offer support. Pupils currently in school have been tested and things have operated very smoothly.
- Please note that if you drop off your son/daughter for their testing appointment, you must remain in the car. You will not be allowed to enter the main hall with them.
- **After their test, pupils must go straight home and can only return if the test is negative.**
- We will contact parents/carers of any confirmed positive tests as soon as we have the result. This should be before the end of the school session. If you do not hear anything, you can presume that the test is negative and your son/daughter can return to school the following day, as per the schedule above. Following a positive test, pupils **must** self-isolate in line with the latest Public Health guidance.

#### FACE COVERINGS

- Please note that, on their return to school, in line with the Prime Minister's announcement, pupils will be required to wear face coverings in all areas inside of the school, including classrooms, unless exempt.
- The government has said that this is a temporary extra safety measure to help reduce the risk of transmission. I understand that this will be difficult, but we need to do all we can to slow down transmission rates and hopefully get back to some semblance of normality very soon.
- In line with current government guidance, pupils **will not** be required to wear face coverings outside. They will be asked to put them on when lining up to come into school and must wear them when entering the dining areas and queuing for food.
- We ask for your support in ensuring that your child brings a mask and spare with them to school every day. Disposable masks can be purchased for 20p and reusable fabric ones for £1.00.

#### DAY STRUCTURE

- Pupils will return in year-group bubbles.
- When pupils return to face-to-face lessons, the day structure will be the same as it was in the Autumn Term, as set out below:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Entry Time</b>	<b>Dismissal Time</b>
Year 7	8.40am	2.45pm
Year 8	8.55am	2.48pm
Year 9	8.45am	2.42pm
Year 10	8.50am	2.40pm
Year 11	8.35am	2.50pm

- A reminder that pupils will be required to follow all hygiene protocols, including regular hand sanitising. Teachers will go back through expectations when pupils return.
- Lunchtime will continue to be staggered. We are currently reviewing the menu, but pupils will return to 'grab bags', in the first instance.

### **OFQUAL CONSULTATION**

The government and Ofqual also announced how GCSE grades will be determined in the summer. The outcome of the consultation can be found in the link below. As well as the infographic on the next page, we have also posted some useful videos on the school's Facebook page.

[Decisions on how GCSE, AS and A level grades will be determined in summer 2021](#)

This was only released on Thursday, and I am sure you will appreciate that we are still working on our Quality Assurance arrangements and will update parents and carers in due course.

Because of the way grades will be determined this year, it is essential that pupils in Year 11 return to school with a focused attitude. Work that is completed over the next few months is going to be crucial.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school from next week. I sincerely hope that this is the last we will see of school closures.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr D R Thompson  
**Head Teacher**

# How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Graded by teacher judgement</li><li> Not graded by an algorithm</li><li> School and college assessments can continue</li><li> You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught</li><li> Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you</li><li> Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence</li><li> Non-exam assessment should continue</li><li> Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete</li><li> Art &amp; design grade based only on your portfolio</li><li> Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to</li><li> Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Results days</b> AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August</li><li> If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.</li></ul> <p data-bbox="1478 981 1993 1157">You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p> <p data-bbox="1512 1204 1948 1260"> <a href="http://www.gov.uk/ofqual">www.gov.uk/ofqual</a></p>

