



## **Student Update: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**

### **Re-opening of schools for all pupils**

From the 8<sup>th</sup> March, schools will re-open to all pupils. Your school will explain exactly what date you can come back to school if you have been learning at home.

When you go back to school, many things will be the same as before the Christmas holiday, such as washing your hands frequently, staying in your 'bubble' and using specific exits and entrances to the school building. If you have forgotten any of the guidelines, ask your teachers.

There may also be new rules for you to follow. For example, you will need to wear a face-covering in classrooms where you cannot socially distance and in corridors. Your school will tell you when you need to wear a face-covering and what to do if you are exempt. Remember to wash your hands after putting on or removing your face covering.

Your parent or carer will be asked to provide consent for you to take a voluntary LFD test. This is designed for people who do not have any symptoms of Covid-19 but might still have the virus (asymptomatic). As part of the test, you will be asked to swab the back of your throat and your nose. Although it can feel a little tickly or strange, it shouldn't hurt. You receive your result shortly afterwards. Your school will explain exactly what you need to do and answer any questions you might have.

Once you have had your first three tests at school, you will be given some test kits to use at home. You will need to take a test twice a week. Your school will give you all the information you need about how to test yourself at home and what to do with your result.

If you have symptoms of Covid-19 (a new continuous cough, a temperature, loss of taste of smell), you should not take a LFD test. Instead, you should get a regular Covid-19 test by making an appointment at a test centre or by having a test delivered to your home.

Remember, there are still two weeks until you can start returning to school. During this time, your school will keep you updated about what to expect. If you have any questions or worries, ask your teachers – it's always good to talk!



## Key dates for the Future

Yesterday (22<sup>nd</sup> February), the Prime Minister announced the ‘roadmap’ for leaving lockdown. This gives the earliest dates that you will be allowed to do certain activities or visit certain places. All the dates depend on how many people have received vaccinations against Covid-19, how many people have the infection and how many people are in hospital.

Here is a summary of the main parts of each stage:

- Stage One: 8<sup>th</sup> March:
  - Schools will open to all pupils
  - You can meet with one other person from outside your household but should still follow social distancing rules
- Stage One: 29<sup>th</sup> March:
  - Two households can meet outside but should still follow social distancing rules
  - You can meet in a group of six people outside but must follow social distancing rules
  - Some organised outdoor sports will start
- Stage Two: No earlier than 12<sup>th</sup> April:
  - Zoos, theme parks and similar outdoor attractions can open
  - Gyms can open but only for individual exercise or for people in the same household
  - Shops, libraries and community centres will open
  - You can continue to meet in a group or six people outside, remembering to use social distancing.
  - Two households can continue to meet outside, remembering to use social distancing.
- Stage Three: No earlier than 17<sup>th</sup> May:
  - Some indoor entertainment can open
  - Organised indoor sports can start
  - You can meet with up to 30 people outside – guidance on social distancing will be provided nearer the time.
  - Two households can meet inside or up to six people – guidance on social distancing will be provided nearer the time.
- Stage Four: No earlier than 21<sup>st</sup> June
  - Large events will be able to take place
  - Rules on who you can meet with will be reviewed

It is important to remember that all the dates listed here are the earliest that the changes will be made. In the meantime, it is important to continue to follow the rules about staying at home, wearing face coverings and washing your hands regularly.

If you want to read more about the changes that are planned, you can find information here: [Roadmap summary](#). You can also ask your teachers if you have any questions.



## Exams update

Earlier this term, OFQUAL (the group that oversees exams in England) asked for your feedback on what should take the place of GCSE, AS and A-level exams this year.

OFQUAL are now looking closely at your responses and hope to publish their advice later this week. We will keep you updated on the main changes and how your grades will be calculated.

In the meantime, remember that the work you are completing at the moment could help your teachers to decide your grade. Keep trying your best and let your teacher's know if there is something you find too challenging or difficult to understand.

## Well-being

We understand that the lockdown has been difficult for some people. Although many of you have enjoyed learning at home, we also know that you might be missing your friends or feeling bored because you cannot do the things you normally enjoy.

Remember, there are people that can help you if you are feeling worried, anxious or unhappy. You can speak to your school for help or find information about how to look after your mental health on these website:

- [Young Minds](#)
- [Kooth](#)
- [Every Mind Matters NHS](#)
- [CHUMS](#)