



# Spalding High School

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**Headmistress** Mrs M Anderson B.Ed

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear students, parents and carers,

This is a brief update letter, the first of several over the next week, regarding the arrangements for students returning to school, as announced by the Prime Minister yesterday.

Firstly, on behalf of all at the High School, can I say (again) how proud we are of all of our students for their resilience and hard work over this lockdown and how much we are looking forward to seeing you back in school very soon.

It is vital to remember that the virus is still widely prevalent within the community and there are still many millions of people waiting for their vaccination. Tremendous inroads have been made with the vaccination programme but it is critical that when we return to school we maintain all of the health and hygiene measures in place to minimise the risk of transmission and keep everyone as safe as possible. There will be important updates to the School's risk assessments over the course of this next week which we will share with you and we will provide a health and safety update to all students as they return to school. In essence, most of our working practices will be identical to the way we worked during terms one and two under Covid Secure measures.

Little detail was given to the public in yesterday's announcements other than students returning to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. Last night, schools received more detail from the Department for Education and this brief first letter is to give you a better picture of the instructions to schools:

- Secondary schools can phase the return of students from the 8<sup>th</sup> March in order to complete mass testing as each year group returns. Like many schools, we could not conduct the tests for all 1,100 students and staff in a single day. The details of the phased return will be confirmed with you shortly but we will have Years 10-13 return in the first half of the week and Years 7-9 return in the second half of the week.
- Secondary students (and staff) need to wear a face covering (not a visor or shield) in communal areas **and** when in lessons. There are exceptions for when doing PE, eating and drinking and when sitting outside (at distance) at break and lunchtime. This measure will be in place until at least the end of Term 4 (Easter holidays). This does not apply to students who have a medical exemption.
- Year groups will be tested on their first day back and then twice more in school a few days apart. Scientists estimate that as many as one third of the population are asymptomatic carriers of the virus and it is critically important that this route of transmission is stopped in its tracks. Once students have completed three in-school tests, we will be rolling out the processes for the home testing kits (similar to the ones used in primary schools this term). Further details of this will be shared with students and parents in due course. Testing remains voluntary, but as explained above, it is a key tool in reducing transmission and outbreaks, and will hopefully mean that we are able to maintain face-to-face education for students rather than having to self-isolate large groups or bubbles. Many parents and students have already registered but if you have not yet done so, please follow the instructions below. I would urge all students (and parents) to register for testing in school so that we can be as proactive and successful as possible in this measure.

## **Initial testing**

We will be testing all students attending school from March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please [Click here](#) to complete the consent form. Please see the School website for Terms of Consent.

### **Registration for testing**

Please [click here](#) to provide the necessary registration information for students so that you/they can participate in regular mass testing. **(This only needs to be completed if you have given consent above to be tested).**

As we will be communicating more frequently over the course of this next week in preparation for school returning to face-to-face learning, we will not be issuing a bulletin this week or next. Please read all communication carefully and contact [enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk) if you have any questions.

In the meantime, stay safe and we cannot wait to have you back in school!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M K Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail.

M K Anderson  
Headmistress