

Dear Parents/ Carers

Further to the email on Friday, we are writing to with further details about your child's return to school. This email contains information about:

1. On-Site Asymptomatic Testing
2. COVID-19 Prevention Measures
3. Attendance at School
4. Uniform and Equipment

Further details will be provided in due course about the revised whole school daily schedule, the precise timings for the staggered start for all students on Wednesday March 10th and the awarding of GCSE, A Level and Vocational Grades.

1. On-Site Asymptomatic Testing

Thank you to the many parents of Y7-11 students/ students in Y12-13 who have consented to Lateral Flow Device Testing. As previously stated, these tests are not obligatory but are **very strongly encouraged** to minimise both the spread of the virus and further disruption to your child's education going forward.

To provide consent, please access the forms as outlined below:

- Parents of children in Years 7-11 should complete the consent form [here](#).
- Students in Years 12 and 13 should complete their own consent form [here](#).

Please ensure that the consent form is completed no later than:

- **Tuesday 2nd March at 5pm for Year 12 and 13 students (testing to take place on Friday 5th March) – please contact ehamilton@charternorthdulwich.org.uk if your child has missed this deadline.**
- **Wednesday 3rd March at 5pm for Year 7, 10 and 11 students (testing to take place on Monday 8th March)**
- **Thursday 4th March at 5pm for Year 8 and 9 students. (testing to take place on Tuesday 9th March)**

We will communicate with you later this week about the appointment time for your child's test, as well as where they should go, what they should do and any other important details, particularly related to health and safety. **Students do not need to wear school uniform when they come in for testing (since they will be returning home straight away). However, it is very important that they are ready to return in full school uniform on Wednesday 10th March (see below).** Please note that the DfE guidance makes it clear that the first three tests MUST be administered on the school site and cannot be taken at home.

As stated in the previous email, pre-recorded lessons will be provided during the period of COVID-19 testing. Tuesday 9th is a Staff Re-orientation Day, which means that there are no lessons for students on that day, and the Critical Worker and Vulnerable Student Provision will be closed on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th March to allow us to both conduct testing and prepare the site for the full return of students. All students will then return to school in a staggered way on Wednesday 10th March with further details to follow.

2. COVID-19 Prevention Measures

The Risk Assessment has been reviewed and revised to ensure that our hygiene, safeguarding and health and safety measures are robust, so we hope that will give you full confidence about your

child's safe return to school, and it will be available for parents to view from Thursday in the COVID-19 section of the school website. The in-school arrangements during the Autumn Term will remain in place when students return to school next week. This means:

(i) Existing year bubbles, learning zones and break and lunch arrangements

This helps reduce the number of contacts between students and staff, keeps movement around the school to a minimum and avoids creating busy corridors, entrances and exits.

(ii) Cleaning hands thoroughly and more often than usual

Students should wash or sanitise their hands regularly including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before or after eating. Sanitiser dispensers are in place around school and inside all classrooms.

(iii) Good respiratory hygiene ('catch it, kill it, bin it')

Tissues are available around the school and in all classrooms, and students are encouraged to carry a supply of tissues.

(iv) Enhanced cleaning procedures, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces

Rooms shared between year groups will be cleaned frequently and between use as well as toilets, which are allocated to specific year groups.

(v) Social distancing

Students are reminded that they should keep their distance from others as much as possible. They should try to stay at least 2 metres away from staff and other year group bubbles, and they should try to keep their distance and avoid physical contact with students within their own year bubble. Large gatherings and assemblies will not take place.

(vi) Ventilation

Good ventilation reduces the concentration of the virus in the air reducing the risk of airborne transmission. Classroom windows and doors will be open at all times, although not always fully, and heating will be in operation where required to maintain a comfortable environment. Given that it is now Spring and the weather is warmer, students are NOT permitted to wear coats or similar in classrooms.

(vii) Face coverings

In secondary schools, face coverings should be worn by everyone (unless exempt) when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

You may be aware that it is expected that students and staff are to wear face coverings when we are unable to practice social distancing. This new ruling is initially in place until Easter. As our students are unable to practice social distancing in classrooms all students will be required to wear a face covering at all times, including in lessons, when in the school building. 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. And students will not need to wear a face covering outside school buildings.

We recognise that wearing face coverings for a prolonged amount of time will be difficult. However, it is understood that this has been introduced based on scientific advice, in light of the increased transmissibility of the new variants and as a result of the number of students and proximity of students to others in classrooms. This additional measure will protect all members of our school

community and our families and minimise the disruption to your child's education.

Some students and adults may be [exempt from wearing face coverings](#). This applies to those who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical impairment or disability, illness or mental health difficulties
- rely on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

If your child is exempt from wearing a face mask email Ms

Edwards on kedwards@charternorthdulwich.org.uk if they are in Y7-11 or Ms

Hamilton ehamilton@charternorthdulwich.org.uk if they are in Y12-13. You should do this even if you have informed us before about this since we are updating our exemption list. We advise that all students have two face coverings with them in school each day. For further information about face coverings, please see the government guidance [here](#).

(viii) Behaviour in the local community

Students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school wherever it is possible and safe to do so. Where students need to use public transport they should follow the [safer travel guidance for passengers](#), including wearing a face covering when travelling on public transport.

Students are reminded to not congregate in large groups and to observe social distancing from adults and other members of the local community, including vulnerable children and adults.

(ix) Information for parents/carers of clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people

Growing evidence shows that many children identified at the start of the pandemic as clinically extremely vulnerable are not at increased risk of serious outcomes from coronavirus (COVID-19) and children are gradually being removed from the shielding patient list as appropriate, following review with a clinician. If your child is confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable, they are advised not to attend school or college until further notice. Find out more on [shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). If your child has recently been advised not to attend school or college, we will request to see a copy of the shielding letter and/or any communications from a clinician confirming that your child can now attend school (having previously shielded.)

All 16 to 18 year olds with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality will be offered a vaccine in priority group 6 of the vaccination programme. Even if they have been vaccinated, these young people should continue to shield and to self-isolate if they have symptoms or are identified as a close contact of a positive case. **Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable should still attend school.**

3. Attendance at School

From Wednesday 10th March, students are expected to attend school and the government has stipulated that attendance is mandatory from this date. However, we recognise that students will not be able to attend school if they are required to self-isolate according to official public health advice.

You should not send your child to school or college if they:

- have [symptoms](#) or live in a household with someone who has symptoms
- have tested positive themselves, even if they do not have symptoms
- live in a household with someone who has tested positive, even if that person does not have symptoms

- are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19
- are required to self-isolate for travel-related reasons

Please contact our attendance officer at hkyriacou@charternorthdulwich.org.uk if your child will be absent for any of the above reasons. Remember that if your child tests positive for COVID-19, requiring the school to engage in contact tracing you should also contact covid19@charternorthdulwich.org.uk.

4. Uniform and Equipment

Uniform is a key part of the school's culture of high expectations, so we expect all students to arrive on the Wednesday 10th March dressed impeccably in full school uniform in line with normal school policy as outlined below.

- The school navy blue **V-neck** sweater with the Charter logo which must be worn (unless directed otherwise)
- A white polo shirt **with our logo**
- No long sleeve tops are to be worn under the polo shirt.
- **Navy blue** or black formal trousers worn around the waist – no chinos or jeans
- A formal navy blue or black skirt worn at a length that is appropriate for school – no tight-fitting skirts
- Plain black hard leather shoes are to be worn. **No canvas or suede shoes, boots, trainers, 'Vans', 'Converse' of any description, or any other soft trainer-style footwear are to be worn.** Plain black **hard** leather Kicker shoes **are** acceptable
- **Tracksuit tops and hooded tops are not allowed** in school
- Plain navy blue, black or white knee or ankle height socks, or plain black or navy blue tights. No leggings
- Plain black coat only – no logos, **no denim or leather jackets**
- No jewellery allowed except one small pair of ear studs that must be worn in the lobe of the ear. **No other piercings are allowed**
- Make up may not be worn in Years 7–11
- No false eye lashes or nail extensions are to be worn.
- Hair must be of a natural colour
- No tattoos of any description
- **No Headwear allowed except a plain** navy blue or black **head** bands may be worn. Head scarves (including 'do-rags') are not to be worn except for religious or medical reasons
- Any neck scarves worn must be plain navy or black.

As mentioned above, because we are now in the spring term, we will not allow coats to be worn in the classroom. Students can wear a plain white long sleeved t-shirt under their polo shirt to keep warm if necessary.

In addition, all students should wear their year group lanyard to school on Wednesday. If they have lost it, they should let their year leader/ tutor know, and they will be issued a spare lanyard on the first day. Wearing the lanyard is obligatory. Students in breach of our uniform code will be sanctioned in line with normal school policy.

Full details about our uniform policy can be found in the appendix at the end of this document. If you need to purchase new uniform, please visit our usual suppliers – [Whitehall Clothiers](#) [Camberwell](#).

Every student must bring a school bag big enough to carry A4 folders and books every day. Every student must also bring the following items in their bag:

<p>Pencil case containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two black biros • Green biro • Pencil and eraser • Coloured pencils • Pencil sharpener • Pair of compasses • Ruler 30 cm and protractor • Calculator • <i>Glue</i> • <i>Small Safety Scissors</i> 	<p>The school bag should also contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Planner Exercise books (will be reissued if required) Reading book <i>2 masks</i> PE kit as required (the policy will be same as the Autumn Term unless advised otherwise) Other practical equipment needed <i>Hand Sanitiser</i> <i>Tissues</i> <p><i>(Items in italics are included as COVID-secure measures)</i></p>
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Students should also bring a re-usable water bottle/ container that can be re-filled at the school water fountains.

As before lockdown, mobile phones are **NOT** allowed in school for students in Years 7-11. If a student's phone is seen or heard by a member of staff at any time of the day on school premises it will be confiscated for one week and the student will be issued with a Serious Breach. If a student's mobile phone goes missing in school, the school will not be responsible for recovering it. Students in Years 12-13 can use their mobile phones in designated areas only.

If you think that there may be a problem with any aspect of uniform or equipment please contact your child's year leader or tutor as soon as possible.

On behalf of the staff at The Charter School North Dulwich, please know that we wholeheartedly look forward to being back in school for face-to-face teaching with our students. We thank you for your support, help and assistance during the period of home learning, and look forward to welcoming students back into our community next week.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child returning to school, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Kind Regards

The Charter School North Dulwich