



2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to our letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021, thank you for your patience whilst we have been working through our detailed plan for the safe return of all of our students and staff from week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March. We have significantly increased our testing capacity to administer tests for our students and it was lovely to welcome some of our Post 16 students into school today for their first test. We are now in a position to share our more detailed plans with you.

## Testing week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> March

Where we have received consent from students, we are issuing testing appointment slots for the following Year groups this week:

Date	Year group invited for test where consent received
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 12 and Year 13 invited for a test.
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 11 students invited for a test.
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10 students invited for a test.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9 students invited for a test.  Year 12 and 13 students invited for 2 <sup>nd</sup> test.

For the safety of all our staff and students, please can we stress the importance of not attending for the test if either your child or any member of the household is displaying symptoms of Covid 19. Detailed guidance, along with a test registration code is issued by way of separate communication to parents/carers 24 hours prior to the test date. Unfortunately due to the complexities of the testing schedule we are unable to change appointment times or dates.

## Full Re-Opening of School

Given we have been able to carry out a significant number of tests this week, we are pleased to confirm the return of all Year groups as follows:

Return to School Date	Testing Plan
Years 12 and 13	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March – 3 <sup>rd</sup> test. Home testing kits will provided after this date
Return to school Date: Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	
Year 11	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March – 2 <sup>nd</sup> test Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March – 3 <sup>rd</sup> test Home testing kits will provided after this date
Return to school Date: Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	

**Headteacher: Miss D Martin**

Harrogate Road, Rawdon, Leeds, LS19 6LX Tel: (0113) 250 2330

[www.bentonpark.org.uk](http://www.bentonpark.org.uk)

E-mail: [secretary@bentonpark.net](mailto:secretary@bentonpark.net)

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Year 10 Return to school Date: Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March – 2 <sup>nd</sup> test Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> test Home testing kits will provided after this date
Year 9 Return to school Date: Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March – 2 <sup>nd</sup> test Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March – 3 <sup>rd</sup> test Home testing kits will provided after this date
Year 8 Return to school Date: Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March  Remote learning will continue for Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March.	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March – 1 <sup>st</sup> test upon return to school. To remain in Form groups until full testing completed.  Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March – 2 <sup>nd</sup> test Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March – 3 <sup>rd</sup> test Home testing kits will provided after this date
Year 7 Return to school Date: Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March – 1 <sup>st</sup> test upon return to school. To remain in Form groups until full testing completed.  Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March – 2 <sup>nd</sup> test Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March – 3 <sup>rd</sup> test Home testing kits will provided after this date

We have tried to accommodate all Year groups back on the 8<sup>th</sup> March but our physical testing space means we have to ask Year 8 to return to school one day later on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Remote Learning will continue for all Year 8 students on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## Health and Safety Measures

Our working arrangements for both staff and students continue to be guided by a detailed Risk Assessment and the safety measures will be similar to the arrangements in the autumn term. We will remind parents and students of these later in the week, but we would like to draw your attention to the following key changes:

- Testing – following completion of 3 negative Lateral Flow Covid tests in school, students will be issued with home testing kits to be completed twice weekly. Detailed guidance will be issued with these kits.

Staff will also be offered home testing kits to complete twice weekly.

Please note: the testing programme is optional.

- Face Coverings – These must continue to be worn in corridors and all communal areas and in addition, until Easter at the earliest, the Government have stipulated that students and staff must wear face coverings when social distancing cannot be

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maintained, including in classrooms. The only exceptions to this are where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity for example, in PE lessons. Students who are exempt from wearing a face covering are also excluded from this requirement but they must wear the badge they were issued with on their blazer as evidence of the exemption. We recommend that your child brings at least one spare face covering to school each day and they are used carefully in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) guidance to avoid cross contamination. This includes using them to cover face and nose, sanitising or washing hands after touching face coverings, replacing face coverings when damp and storing them or disposing of them appropriately after use.

## Medical Details

To enable us to support your child effectively, please ensure you update any medical info, or dietary requirements using our Parent App, Edulink. If your child requires an Epi-pen or an inhaler, please ensure it is in date and that your child has it with them at all times, including a spare held in school.

Our overriding message for parents/carers is to seek your continued cooperation in being vigilant and keeping your children at home if either they or any member of the household display any symptoms of Coronavirus;

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a **cough**, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of taste or smell.

We will continue to undertake our track and tracing procedures in school where we identify any positive cases and will contact parents/carers separately if their child is identified as a close contact and needs to self-isolate.

If your child has received a shielding letter please contact our Attendance team on [attendance@bentonpark.net](mailto:attendance@bentonpark.net) so we can ensure remote learning is in place for them.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our students back next week and we would encourage them to check their school communication at the end of this week so they can refresh themselves on all of the safety arrangements and procedures. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact [secretary@bentonpark.net](mailto:secretary@bentonpark.net)

Yours sincerely

Delia Martin  
Headteacher

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