



Tudor Grange Academy Redditch

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you are aware of the Prime Minister's announcements yesterday. We know that this will have been welcome news to many of you and we are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school. This letter updates you on what we now need to do to plan for this return.

Current guidance and information

The main operational guidance that we are currently reviewing is here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

and the main media release responding to frequently asked questions is here:

[All students to return to school and college from 8 March and what you need to know - Education in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

The expectation is that schools will open from the 8th March, we **will be planning a staggered return so that we can ensure that we have offered testing to all pupils**. This is essential to ensure we re-open to all pupils safely by reducing the number of asymptomatic cases on site. It will take time to plan this as we will be very careful about how we will conduct mass testing in a safe and controlled manner – we will take as long as we feel is necessary with the health and safety of everyone at the heart of our decision making.

The other main changes in the new guidance that I want to alert you to are the use of face coverings in classrooms for secondary age pupils and staff and that attendance on-site will be mandatory for **all** pupils except for those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and have received shielding letters from their GP practice. We will write to you with more details about how we intend to apply the guidance.

Awarding of qualifications for summer 2021 examination series

We are expecting an announcement on the outcome of the awarding of qualifications by Thursday of this week. We will write to you as soon as we have these details about how we will apply these here and what this means for you. **It is essential that both year 11 and year 13 continue to undertake revision and preparation for mock examinations** as it is likely that we will conduct these in classroom- based settings shortly after you have return to school.





Tudor Grange Academy Redditch

Our next steps

We will be sending out a separate letter today to all parents of students that have not been attending the small school provision and therefore have not had access to the testing centre. The letter will contain details about testing and the links for you to complete the consent form online. Please can you complete this as soon as possible so that we know how many students have consented to testing before their return to school.

We will look at the guidance very carefully over the next few days and leaders from across the Trust will meet to discuss and share their planning. We plan to issue our arrangements for re-opening **by the end of this week**. We will keep our communications as concise as possible so that we can ask for your responses to these details by the end of Tuesday 2nd March, so that we can make any necessary final adjustments to our planning based on your feedback.

I do assure you that we will proceed with great care and caution over the coming weeks. Our children and many of you have found the last two months extremely difficult and returning to some sort of normality is becoming more essential as each day passes. We have valued all your support over the last twelve months as we have navigated our way through the difficulties posed by the virus. All that we can ask is that you are as thoughtful and communicative as you have always been, so that we can continue to support you and your child as we all return to something closer to 'normal'.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jodie Bolter".

Mrs Jodie Bolter Principal Tudor Grange Academy Redditch