

De La Salle Plans for Wider Re-opening

Context

The government announced the wider re-opening of schools from Monday 8th March 2021. As part of this re-opening secondary schools are to offer all students 3 tests (each 3-5 days apart) and then home testing. We are delighted to be welcoming our students back to school a restarting face-to-face teaching as quickly and safely as possible.

When drawing up our plans, the central focus is, of course, the safety of our students, their families and our staff. We are also taking into account:

- Government and PHE advice and requirements.
- Our capacity to safely scale up our testing programme.
- Awareness that many staff, students and families will be apprehensive about returning to school.
- The need to support staff and students in that transition back to some form of normality over the coming weeks and months.
- Ensuring the burden for returning to school is shared equally and fairly across our community.
- The issue faced in reconfiguring the school back into whole year-based bubbles.
- To prioritise student return by age group.

Timescale

Our intention is to have all students safely returned to school and to have had the offer of their first COVID test by Thursday 11th March. Below is how we plan to achieve this:

Friday 5th March

- Catch-up day for all students: staff will have made clear any expectations and coverage of work that should have been completed in preparation for returning to school
- Final day of provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children (from Monday they will follow the phased return of their year group) the staff rota will remain in place for Friday.
- Staff TEAMS meeting (9am) followed by training – 1 hr. The rest of the day will be dept planning time.
-

Monday 8th March

Year Group	Activity	Details
Year 11	Offer of COVID testing	Students to come in at appointed time to be tested then immediately return home (parents can wait in car park)
Year 10		
Year 9	Working from Home	Complete work from home
Year 8		
Year 7		

Tuesday 9th March

Year Group	Activity	Details
Year 11	In School	Students to return to school at normal time in their year bubbles, as per pre-Christmas arrangements.
Year 10		
Year 9	Offer of COVID testing	Students to come in at appointed time to be tested then immediately return home (parents can wait in car park)
Year 8		
Year 7	Working from Home	Complete work from home

Wednesday 10th March

Year Group	Activity	Details
Year 11	In School	Students to return to school at normal time in their year bubbles, as per pre-Christmas arrangements.
Year 10		
Year 9		
Year 8		
Year 7	Offer of COVID testing	Students to come in at appointed time to be tested then immediately return home (parents can wait in car park)

Thursday 11th March (Reduced Day)

Year Group	Activity	Details
Year 11	In School	Students to return to school at normal time in their year bubbles, as per pre-Christmas arrangements. Please note that this is a reduced day with students finishing at 1.30pm to facilitate the pre-planned Year 11 Parents' Evening.
Year 10		
Year 9		
Year 8		
Year 7		

Friday 12th March

All students back full time and second round of testing to begin.

Summary

	Mon 8th	Tue 9th	Wed 10th	Thu 11th	Fri 12th		Mon 15th	Tue 16th	Wed 17th	Thu 18th
Year 11	Test 1	Return to school		Test 2				Test 3		
Year 10	Test 1	Return to school			Test 2			Test 3		
Year 9		Test 1	Return to school		Test 2				Test 3	
Year 8		Work set on MST	Test 1	Return to school			Test 2		Test 3	
Year 7			Work set on MST	Test 1	Return to school			Test 2		

Other Key Information

Work for Students from 8th March before returning to school

From 8th March there will be no more live lessons, instead students will be set work to complete until their testing day. No work will be set for a year group on their testing day e.g. on Monday 8th years 7, 8 and 9 will be set work online (though not live lessons) but no work will be set for Year 10 and 11.

Attendance

In line with government guidance, attendance is now mandatory for all students, except those identified as CEV (see below)

Mandatory attendance means that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child (if they are of compulsory school age) to school regularly if they are registered at one. Where a secondary age pupil is not expected to attend due to their school's testing programme in the week of 8 March, absence will not be penalised.

Transport

On their first test day students will be expected to make their own way to and from school (parents are welcome to wait in the car park if required).

For normal school days, all school buses should be running as normal. On the reduced day students will finish at 1.30pm. Students can wait in school until 3pm for the school buses.

Face Coverings

a) **Our approach:** I am very aware of how contentious an issue face coverings are. Our policy is, in line with guidance from Public Health England advice:

*"We now also **recommend** in those schools, face coverings **should** be worn in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. We [The government] are taking this additional precautionary measure for a limited time during this period of high coronavirus (COVID-19) prevalence in the community. These measures will be in place until Easter. As with all measures, we will keep it under review and update guidance at that point."*

Therefore, though the choice remains with the individual, we strongly recommend that pupils and staff wear face coverings in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained, though this is not mandatory.

This strong recommendation does not apply to **children who are exempt** – if you believe your child should be exempt then please let us know at delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk and your child will be provided with a pass to inform staff they are exempt – we **do not require medical confirmation** of this exemption.

b) **Face Coverings hygiene:** we are very aware that wearing face coverings for a long period of time also carries its own health issues. We would therefore urge families to ensure students had several face coverings (ideally re-usable ones) which are replaced and cleaned regularly.

c) **Face Coverings cost:** students are expected to provide their own face coverings. The school will have a stock of face coverings for those who forget them. Any families struggling to meet the cost of face coverings should contact the school and we will offer support.

Government information regarding all aspects of face coverings, including safe usage can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Testing

All students will be offered 3 tests upon returning to school. Details of the timings of your child's test and information on the tests, including the request for consent will be sent out next week. After that they will be provided with home testing kits to allow regular testing at home.

Testing is voluntary and your child will not be tested unless you (or another parent/carer) have given informed consent. We **strongly encourage** you and your child to take part, to help us break chains of transmission and manage the virus. Your child will not be stopped from returning to school if you or they choose not to be tested or are not able to undertake a test and will return to face-to-face education in line with their year group's arrangements above.

Uniform and expectations

Students coming to school for their first COVID test should wear their own clothes. After that, it is important for all students to get back to normal working practices as soon as possible and as such we will still have a strong focus on or uniform as expectations. Please read and share the attached expectations from Mr Hale with your child. Particularly regarding:

- Uniform / Shoes / PE kit
- Hair / Eyelashes / False Nails
- Mobile Phones

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Students (CEV)

If your child has been identified as being CEV by a medical professional then please let us know. Under the government guidance they should be shielding and you will be required to provide evidence that they are CEV.

Loaned Laptops

During lockdown we have provided a large number of students with school laptops. These should be returned to our Agilisys IT Team when students return to school.