



23rd February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Parental Update following PM's Announcement

Can I start by welcoming you all back after half term as we enter the second half of the spring term. I know I am also going to disappoint you slightly as this update will not contain the answers you are after for the 8th March! Please be assured you will get them soon.

Government Announcement

Yesterday the Prime Minister set out the road map to take the country out of lockdown, which I am sure will bring some hope and relief to us all and a reminder that, one day, the restrictions will be lifted.

He began his announcement by stating that schools will re-open fully to students from 8th March and I am sure this was welcome news to many parents who have been wrestling with home education and working from home. We are very keen to have our students back but, as always, we want to ensure it is done safely for all those involved.

Headlines Vs Detail

The detail regarding school opening came out much after his announcement and contained some interesting details that the government want school leaders to take into account. These include:

Headline	Detail
All students to be tested upon return to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Students to be tested 3 times as part of their return to school. Students can return to school after their first negative test.- Then students to be offered weekly tests to be completed at home.- All testing is of course optional.
Students to return on 8 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Secondary schools allowed to begin return on a phased basis across that week to also allow for the testing e.g. different year groups starting back on different days.
Face coverings to be worn in lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Face coverings are already compulsory in communal areas.- Schools allowed to consider making it compulsory for face coverings to be worn in

	areas where social distancing is not possible.
Attendance back to school is compulsory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All students, apart from CEV students, should return to school. - The advice is that schools should revert back to addressing non-attendance as would normally be the case.
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) Students (and staff) to shield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The definition of CEV has expanded slightly. - Those classed as CEV are asked to shield - Parents can be asked to provide evidence that their child is CEV and has been asked to shield.

Full details of the guidance is available here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak?utm_source=22%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Our Plans

We have gone through these changes and are currently planning how the re-opening will look for staff and students at De La Salle. I hope to be able to write to you by the end of this week with the details of how the re-opening will look.

We have made no firm decisions yet but to help manage expectations, it is highly likely to be a phased re-opening across the week (prioritising students oldest to youngest) to allow us to carry out the required testing. It will also involve the offer of testing for every child, hopefully 3 times in the first 3 weeks. We are also hopeful that our plans will ensure that, whether in school or working from home, that students will still access their lessons until all students are fully back on site.

With regards to the issue of face coverings in lessons, it would appear that, as we ensure staff are socially distanced from students in class, that these will not be necessary, however, we are seeking additional guidance on this.

Remote Learning

I have attached a concise guide and reminder regarding our ongoing remote learning for all students.

Other Developments – Mr Ross

At the very end of the half term, the Local Authority asked if Mr Ross could be released to act as the Headteacher for the Virtual School (which oversees the local authority's provision for looked after children). Mr Ross was already on a partial secondment and we have agreed that Mr Ross can be released full time until June 2021, at which time he will return to DLS. In the meantime, arrangements have been made by Mrs Thompson, Head of RE, for students

in his classes. **Students in Mr Ross' classes should check their messages on TEAMS for details.** We wish Mr Ross well in this important role.

As I have mentioned, I hope to be able to write to you with details of when and how the school will fully re-open to all students by the end of the week. Until then, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard

Headteacher