

Dear Parents

I hope that you continue to stay safe and well and that all is ok within your households. I just wanted to give you a further update so that we are all 'in the know' for next week's return.

Attachments

Attached to this email are a couple of attachments. I have written a short letter to all pupils and would be grateful if you would show your child. There is a consent form again (will explain more below) and there is a letter from Jonathan Price, the Cabinet Member for Education and SEND. I have also attached a further copy of our conduct expectations for you to discuss with your child.

Returning to School

As you know from the media, and also from my previous communication with you; Chaselea is fully re-opening from Monday 8th March with all* pupils expected in school, in uniform, for 08:45 in the morning. For some of our pupils this will be a complete change to their habits and daily routine – particularly around getting up in the morning!! I know from my own children just how the lack of routine is not helpful, and I remember myself from being a teenager and how I didn't need any excuses to not get out of bed in the morning!

Can I please ask you to discuss this with your child, as I am sure the majority of you are doing. We will be here to offer our compassion and empathy during what is going to be a difficult transition for many; but they will also need this love and understanding from yourselves. Can I also please ask you to talk with your child about our conduct expectations (attached) and the continued wearing of face masks and social distancing.

Lateral Flow Testing

You will have seen from my previous letter that we will not be carrying out the LFT on pupils. There are a number of reasons for this, but perhaps the strongest for this is the fact that we are an SEMH setting. Our pupils all display social, emotional and mental health needs and the anxiety levels within the school are often extremely high. I am not keen on adding to these anxieties by carrying out these tests on our pupils and then spending the rest of the day dealing with behavioural issues and the mental pain and discomfort that could have been avoided.

However; I am also aware that a small number of you (parents) and your children may feel reassured about being in school having undergone a test. You may feel that your child is capable of carrying out the tests and this **not** having an impact on the rest of their day and the rest of the day for the other pupils and staff. If this is you, could you please discuss this with your child? I am prepared, for a small number who particularly wish, to carry out testing **as long** as there is no impact on the running of the school. I reserve the right to cancel any testing at any time.

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If this is you, then please complete the consent form and return to me by 15:00 (3pm) on Thursday 4th March. This will enable me to see how many pupils this could possibly involve and plan for the week beginning the 8th March. For any pupils that manage to successfully carry out three tests, they will be provided with home-testing kits so that this can then be completed in the home.

No testing will be carried out if there is no consent form from parents.

Examinations

We have now had some details from the Government surrounding the awarding of grades for our Year 11 pupils. There are to be no external, formal examinations and results awarded will be from centre assessed grades. This means that we will be looking at the evidence that we have, the work your child has completed, and we will be conducting a couple of 'assessment days' so that we can add even more evidence. Mr Seymour, Deputy Headteacher, will give you more information in the near future and we will be talking about this to the pupils.

These have been very difficult times for all. Hopefully, this will mark the start of us returning to some form of 'normality'. As I have said before, I am extremely proud of all the efforts of pupils, parents and staff and I know that I am speaking for the whole staff body when I say that we are looking forward to seeing the pupils next week.

Please do contact me (us) if you have any concerns or queries.

Yours sincerely

Paul Archer
Headteacher

*Those pupils whose education is provided by an alternative provider will follow their specific arrangements for returning. Also, those pupils who are currently on a managed move to a mainstream setting will follow their arrangements for returning to school.

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