



Committed to excellence

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Dear Parents and Carers

I'm delighted to be able to set out our plans for students' return to onsite education. This letter should give you all the information you need to be able to prepare your child for coming back to school.

What measures have we taken to ensure that our school is safe?

We have fully reviewed and made changes to our school risk assessment ready for students' return. You can read the school risk assessment on our website [here](#). Our Governors have reviewed and approved this risk assessment as well; you can read about their views [here](#).

There will be two major changes to the way that school is organised once all students return:

1. Lateral Flow Testing will enable all students and staff to be regularly tested for COVID-19. This will in particular support us in identifying any asymptomatic cases, where people can carry and spread the virus without having any symptoms.
2. We will be asking students to keep face coverings on during lessons as well as when they are moving around school corridors. This will provide additional protection for students. Students will not need to wear face coverings in PE lessons or when they are outside, but will need to wear them at all other times.

These two additional safety measures should support us in reducing the spread of the virus in school.

How can you help?

Please could you support us with these additional safety measures:

1. Give us your permission to offer your child three Lateral Flow Tests in school by completing this [Google Form](#) if you would like your child to take part in this testing.
2. Look out for the letter we will send you giving your child an appointment for their first test.
3. Make sure that your child has enough face coverings so s/he is ready to return to school and wear a face covering throughout the day.
4. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering and you have not yet told us, please let Ms McMurdie know. You can email her at smcmurdie@northolthigh.org.uk.

What will the arrangements be for students to return to school?

We will be asking students who are taking part in Lateral Flow testing to have one test before they return to school. This will mean that students will be given an appointment and will be asked to come to school, just for a Lateral Flow test. They will then return straight home.

Our plan for year groups to take part in Lateral Flow programme for these initial Lateral Flow tests is as follows:

Date	Students in school for Lateral Flow Tests only. They attend for their test and then go straight home to continue online learning.	Students in school for onsite lessons. They should arrive at school at 9.20am.	Students at home; online learning.
Thursday 4th March	Year 13 Year 12 Year 11	n/a	Online learning for all year groups
Friday 5th March	Year 13 Year 11	n/a	Online learning for all year groups
Monday 8th March	Year 12	Year 13 Year 11	Year 12 Year 10 Year 9 Year 8 Year 7
Tuesday 9th March	Year 9	Year 13 Year 12 Year 11	Year 10 Year 9 Year 8 Year 7
Wednesday 10th March	Year 10 Year 7	Year 13 Year 12 Year 11 Year 9	Year 10 Year 8 Year 7
Thursday 11th March	Year 8	Year 13 Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 Year 9 Year 7	Year 8
Friday 12th March	n/a	All students in school	Online learning only for students who are self isolating.

Once students have returned to onsite lessons, those who are participating in the Lateral Flow Testing programme will have two further tests in school. After that we will be providing students with home testing kits and students will be able to test themselves twice a week. We will write to you with more information about the home testing programme, but in the meantime you can find further information [here](#).

How can you help?

Please could you support the return to school process as follows:

5. Make sure that your child is on time for the first Lateral Flow Test appointment.
6. Make sure that your child returns straight home after this appointment.
7. Support your child in getting books, equipment and uniform ready for the first day of onsite learning.
8. Check that your child's Wisepay account has sufficient funds for students' lunch.

Changes to remote learning in the next two weeks

We are having to make some adjustments to our remote learning in the next two weeks, as detailed below.

Date	Changes to remote learning
Thursday 4th March and Friday 5th March	Teachers will not be 'live' in lessons as they will be in school preparing for students' return. Lessons will be set in Google Classroom for students to complete independently.
Friday 5th March p3	Students will not have their normal Lesson 3 on Friday 5th March. They will all be sent a training video which they must watch to help them prepare for the return to school during this time.
Monday 8th March - Thursday 11th March	We do not have cameras and microphones on all of our computers in school, so the 'live' element of lessons from teachers may only involve the use of the 'chat' function rather than audio.
Friday 12th March	Online lessons finish unless students are self isolating. The 'live' element to these lessons will no longer take place.

How can you help?

There will be some disruption to normal learning routines in the days ahead. Teachers understand that some students who are working from home will not be able to be present in lessons if they are coming into school to have a Lateral Flow Test. Even when students are back in school there will be a little bit of disruption as we test students for the second and third time.

Please could you support the return to school process as follows:

9. Please encourage your child to keep as up to date as possible with their learning during this period and help them to plan around any disruption due to the Lateral Flow Testing programme.
10. Ask your child to tell you about the COVID-19 safety training materials we will be sending to them to complete on Friday afternoon, so students know how to keep themselves safe from the virus when they return.

My child is in Year 11 or Year 13 and wants to know about exams - what's happening?

The Government guidance on these arrangements has been nicely summarised in [this leaflet](#). You can find the full guidance if you would like to read it [here](#).

We are currently working to prepare our school's approach to this. As part of this we are being asked to wait for each examination board to publish their requirements, which will not be until the end of March. Please bear with us as we conduct this work as we will not be able to fully answer questions until we have been able to see what each examination board asks us to do.

Our outline approach so far is as follows:

When?	What?
March	Students settle back into school. In class assessments support teachers by helping them to understand what students know and where any 'gaps' are in that knowledge.
April	Teachers will use in class assessments and other work already completed by students to determine a current grade for each student. This grade will be shared with students and parents. This grade will be the lowest grade the students could achieve in the exam - any work done from this point can only raise the grade, not lower it.
May	Teachers will use questions which will be provided by examination boards to provide assessments for students. These will be matched carefully to the content that students have covered during the course so will take into account any variations to normal practice caused by the pandemic.
June	Final grades will be submitted to exam boards by the middle of the month, thus ending students' formal lessons with us at this time.
August	Results will be issued on 10th August (Year 13) and 12th August (Year 11). Students will be able to appeal.

I am confident that this process will enable us to support students who have been working extremely hard in difficult circumstances. As soon as we have developed more detail to these plans, we will of course share this information with you.

Thank you all for reading such a long letter! I hope that I've answered all the questions you may have but if not, please email us at help@northolthigh.org.uk.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



Marion Budd
Headteacher