



DEAN TRUST Ardwick

Chief Executive: Mr Tarun Kapur CBE
Headteacher: Ms Suzanne Finlay B.Ed NPQH

3rd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the letter from Tarun Kapur, CEO, regarding returning to school next week (see website), I would like to provide you with the information you now need to return your child (ren) to school from March 8th.

I am sure you agree, it is an important and very much welcomed milestone in the current climate to make the decision that all pupils return to school after spending so long working remotely from home. Pupils will be missing their friends, their teachers and learning in the classroom and it is vital that we provide the right environment for them to return next week. Therefore, our main aim for the remainder of the half term is to ensure that they can settle back into school routines and learning in a structured, positive and welcoming climate.

We shall phase pupils in by year groups next week, as we are required to provide lateral flow tests for pupils (with parental consent) to help reduce the risk of infection. Here is some vital information regarding changes:

Face coverings

The government now recommends that all pupils, unless exempt, **should wear a face covering in the classroom**, if they cannot maintain social distance. This is meant to be a temporary measure and will be reviewed at Easter.

It means that:

- In most lessons, apart from PE and where there are other physical activities, all pupils must wear their face mask, in addition to communal areas
- Pupils do not need to wear masks outside
- Visors can only be worn with a face mask
- Face masks must be plain (a Trust decision)

School staff should wear a face mask where they cannot maintain social distance.

Lateral flow tests

Thank you to the many parents and carers who have so far given their consent for their child(ren) to be tested. We have over 1000 pupils with consent, which is excellent, so we need to manage the process carefully. More detailed information about the process for those pupils receiving tests will be provided in a separate letter. **We shall start testing this Friday (March 5th) with Year 11 pupils.** From 8th March year groups will be tested in turn as the table below will show.

Phased return

We shall phase pupils back to school **one year group a day from Monday 8th March**, as we need to be able to manage the testing at the same time. This means that by Friday 12th March, all pupils will be in school. Please note that:

- Vulnerable and key worker children will continue to come into school from Monday onwards.
- Only those pupils being tested arrive at their appointment time in the afternoon and then go straight home. They start school the next day.
- Once pupils return they stay in school each day.
- Remote learning will continue for pupils whilst they are waiting to return to school.
- We shall keep to the same staggered start and finish times as we did prior to lockdown in the Autumn term. Pupils will use the same separate entrance and exit points of the school as they did prior to lockdown.

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- We shall operate the same structure for lessons as we did in the Autumn term where pupils will work and spend their breaks in year group bubbles.

Please see the plan for returning to school in the table below.

Week commencing 8th March

	In school	Remote Learning	Test 1
Monday 8th March	Y11	Y7-10	Y10 (pm)
Tuesday 9th March	Y10 and 11	Y7-9	Y7 (pm)
Wednesday 10th March	Y7, 10 and 11	Y8 and 9	Y8 (pm)
Thursday 11th March	Y7,8,10 and 11	Y9	Y9 (pm)
Friday 12th March	All pupils (Y9 return)	n/a	n/a

Please ensure your child returns to school on time and in full school uniform as per our regulations. They must arrive equipped with their **planner, pencil case and exercise books**.

Online parent sessions

We shall provide another online parents and carers session for each year group during the next few days which will be led by your child Head of Year and will provide you with further information about this half term. Please look out for a text to register for the meeting.

I sincerely wish for a very positive half term, following the challenging time pupils have had away from school. All staff are very eager to see pupils and we are all ready to welcome them with warmth and positivity. Their well-being is our main priority. Let's hope to restore our strong sense of school community working together as quickly as possible.

If you have any queries please contact us either by phone or send an email to your child's Head of Year:

- Headofyear7@deantrustardwick.co.uk
- Headofyear8@deantrustardwick.co.uk
- Headofyear9@deantrustardwick.co.uk
- Headofyear10@deantrustardwick.co.uk
- Headofyear11@deantrustardwick.co.uk

Thank you for your unending support and commitment.

Yours sincerely

Ms S Finlay
Headteacher

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