



**LATHOM
HIGH SCHOOL**



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Headteacher: Mrs J M Galbraith



1 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am so delighted that the work of our staff team has now been able to focus on planning to welcome our students back into the school building following this current stage of lockdown. We are all extremely pleased that full re-opening of school can take place from Monday 8 March, on a phased plan. Lathom students have worked so very hard on their remote learning and their attendance at live lessons and openness to different styles of teaching and learning has been phenomenal, but having them all back in school is exactly what we have been hoping for since the beginning of January.

This week our staff teams will be in contact with all of our Lathom families to discuss our plans and the requirements of re-opening school. I trust that this conversation will be helpful and that you will take the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Dates of return for each Year group

In order to meet government expectations around the testing programme for students, Lathom will be re-opening to students across the week beginning Monday 8 March. Although the start is slightly staggered to support testing, once students are back in school they will remain in school and we very much hope that all of our Year 'Bubbles' will remain fully open from that point. The school buses will be operating their usual routes with the separate buses covering Birch Green and Digmoor/Tanhouse from Monday 8 March and students should report to The Sports' Hall on their first day back in school. The first day in school, for each Year group is as shown below:

Monday 8 March – Y7

Tuesday 9 March – Y11

Wednesday 10 March – Y10

Thursday 11 March – Y8

Friday 12 March – Y9

Uniform and Equipment

All students will be required to be in full uniform from their first day back in school and we would ask for your full support with this. Please remember that this includes black school shoes as trainers are not acceptable as Lathom school uniform. In order to minimise sharing of equipment, please also ensure that students arrive at school with the required basic equipment.



Face Coverings

From the first day back in school, masks will be continue to be compulsory on buses, in the corridors and in the dining room. In line with the latest government guidance, there is now a development and masks must also be worn within the bubbles and in all classrooms from the date that students return to school. Full compliance with this is expected as we all seek to support each other due to the continuing risk of virus transmission. Students are required to have their own face mask with them at all times and carrying a spare mask would be helpful in case the first one is lost. In the very small number of cases where students have a genuine exemption from wearing a mask, medical evidence is required and a face shield should be worn if at all possible as this is preferable to students having no protection at all.

Testing

Please note that this aspect of the government's re-opening plans (which tests students and staff who do not have COVID symptoms) is part of what is making it possible to have all students back in school at the same time and all are encouraged to take up this opportunity. The process is that each student will have three tests in school as preparation for testing at home after that. We hope that getting used to this process will support students more widely, as proof of a negative lateral flow test may well become part of access to wider activities outside of school. There have been no changes to the plans for those who do have COVID symptoms as they must continue to isolate and organise a PCR test.

Work and Devices

Any work that students have at home should be returned on their first day back in school and given to their teachers. We are pleased to have been able to support so many Lathom families with loan devices to support remote learning. All loaned laptops should be returned to school on the first day back. This means that, if a bubble was to close due to a positive case, the laptops would be available to be issued to students to support them with home learning.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support at this challenging time for us all. Student attitude and commitment to learning have both been superb and they must be commended for responding to our high expectations and maintaining their PROUD values despite the ongoing situation. However, the challenges we continue to face are demanding and affect us all differently, both at home and at work. As you continue to juggle these many challenges, please remember that we are here for you and we will support in any way we can. Please get in touch using familysupport@lathom.lancs.sch.uk or by contacting the school office if you need any further help.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J M Galbraith
Headteacher