

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Return to School

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister earlier this week, we are delighted that we will be having our pupils back in school in the very near future. There will be a phased return to school from March 8th as per the schedule overleaf and we will be sending out further letters to each year group to provide more detail about the exact timings.

The return to school is still being carefully planned and seeing our young people back in our classrooms is something that everybody in our school community is looking forward to. The plan is to provide three lateral flow tests for each child on their return to school, each test spaced 3-5 days apart. Students will then be re-integrated back into their normal school routine the day after this first test. It is our understanding that home-testing kits will then be provided and for these to be undertaken by pupils themselves on a bi-weekly basis. The testing will be a huge undertaking and we are staggering this over a number of days to ensure that social distancing can be maintained whilst splitting the school's staffing across testing and teaching responsibilities.

Within the preliminary guidance released by the Government, there are some key points I need to make you aware of:

- It is now recommended that face-coverings are to be worn in secondary schools for a limited period, until Easter. The Abbey will be following this guidance for the specified period.
- On-site education will continue in year group bubbles with the same routine that students were familiar with back in September 2020, which involved staggered lunches and staggered end of day release times.
- Once students return, all normal expectations will resume including uniform and equipment. Therefore, if there are likely to be any issues do please contact us via info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk ahead of time so we can support you prior to March 8th. Please can we highlight that both uniform suppliers are open for business and orders can be made online.

My over-riding desire is that, as soon as is practically possible and permissible by the Government, we resume normal activities in school that go beyond those in classroom bubbles. I recognise that all of our students, staff and parents have found the last 12 months challenging and we want to gradually reopen our school calmly and sensitively with the welfare of everyone in mind. I ask that we all come together and work towards this common aim.

Kind regards



Dr Rowland Speller
Headteacher

Proposed Timings for Lateral Flow Testing and Return to Classrooms

	1 st Test	2 nd Test	3 rd Test	Return to School
Monday 8 th March	Y8 Y10 Y13			
Tuesday 9 th March	Y7 Y11			Y8 Y10
Wednesday 10 th March	Y9 Y12			Y7 Y11 Y13
Thursday 11 th March		Y13		Y9 Y12
Friday 12 th March		Y8 Y10		
Monday 15 th March		Y9 Y12		
Tuesday 16 th March		Y7 Y11		
Wednesday 17 th March			Y8 Y10	
Thursday 18 th March			Y9 Y12 Y13	
Friday 19 th March			Y7 Y11	

Government Guidance

The government are releasing further information about testing over the next few days, so we will share further details with you as soon as we have these. For your information, you can read the full government guidance on the reopening of schools by following this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf