



24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you and your family are well.

We are very fortunate to have so many supportive parents. So many of you have done an amazing job supporting your child at home with their education. Without your support we are unable to ensure your child receives the education we believe they deserve. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of all my staff, our sincere thanks to you.

You will undoubtedly be aware that the Prime Minister announced that schools will begin to return during week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### **COVID-19 Testing**

The government has asked all secondary schools to make arrangements for all students, where permission has been given, to undertake a COVID-19 lateral flow test at school before normal face-to-face teaching resumes. The government then requires all schools to do a further two lateral flow tests, 3 to 5 days apart. Thereafter, students will be provided with their own lateral flow testing kit to take home. The government then expects secondary school students to undertake two lateral flow tests each week at home. It is hoped that through this testing regime schools in England will be able to stay open safely.

Our school sought permission from parents to undertake lateral flow tests in December and January. We are pleased to advise you that around 95% of parents have given permission for their child to undertake mass and serial lateral flow testing. We remain very grateful to all parents who responded so positively. For those that have not yet given permission, you still have the opportunity to do so by emailing [office@marshlandhigh.co.uk](mailto:office@marshlandhigh.co.uk) for more information. Please remember the tests are non-invasive and a testing programme has been in place for all children in school since January.

If you would be willing to help us as a volunteer to support testing during the two weeks Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March, please email [office@marshlandhigh.co.uk](mailto:office@marshlandhigh.co.uk) urgently.

### **Phased Return**

To allow us to effectively and safely manage the testing programme and resumption of the normal curriculum, we will have a phased return to school as follows:

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Year 7 return
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Year 8 return
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Year 9 return
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Year 10 return
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March – Year 11 return

## Important Information

- There will be no specialist provision for vulnerable students and students of keyworkers during the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March. These students should instead return to school with their peers on the day stated for their year group outlined above.
- Students must arrive at the normal time to start the school day by 8:45. Please do not arrive before 8:30.
- Students must go directly to the room where they have their first lesson of the day, NOT THEIR TUTOR GROUP.

*For example,*

- *If you are Year 7 your first day back is Monday. If you have History in D3 period 1, when you arrive to school, you go directly to D3.*
- *If you are Year 9, your first day back to Wednesday. If you have Maths in M2, when you arrive to school, you go directly to M2.*

Timetables are always available on 'Show My Homework' and week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March is a 'Week A'.

- The government now requires all students to wear a face mask in all areas of the school, at all times, including in classrooms. An exemption still applies to those with medical conditions. Staff will also wear face masks in corridors, outside and in classrooms. Visors or shields may be worn in addition, but not instead of a face mask. Face masks must cover both the nose and mouth. Snoods and scarfs are not acceptable face masks.
- Please note teachers and/or support staff will not wear a face mask in classrooms supporting children who lip read.
- The school catering facilities will be open during the phased return for Free School Meals and a limited menu. Otherwise please ensure your child has sufficient food and a water bottle with them.
- Due to the continued lockdown, we are still not accepting visitors to site without a pre-booked appointment so please ensure your child has everything they need for their day at school.
- Please ensure you are wearing the full and correct uniform unless you have a PE lesson during the day, where you should come into school in suitable PE kit.

## Remote Learning during the Phased Return

Students remaining at home each day will be required to remain engaged with their online education:

- Period 1 and Period 2 each day that week – NO live lessons. Students must use as a study period to catch-up on any work missed or need to complete, use their Knowledge Organiser to revise, access reading for pleasure from MyON Library and Key Stage 4 revision.
- Period 3, 4 and 5 each day – LIVE lessons will be in place with a register. These lessons will be designed to be 50 minutes in length. Students must arrive on time to each lesson.

### **Loan Equipment**

For those families who have been supplied with equipment including laptops, Mr Lucas will be in contact with you to arrange the equipment's safe return. It is essential that all equipment is recorded as being signed back into the school. Failure to follow the safe return of equipment guidance may result in parents being asked to reimburse the school to replace any lost equipment, as agreed when it was signed for and issued.

### **Job Vacancies**

If you would like to join the Marshland team, we are currently looking to recruit a Catering Assistant and Lunchtime Supervisors. Full details are available on [our website](#).

We look forward to welcoming all students back into school. Should you have any further questions regarding the reopening of school, or if your child has worries or concerns about returning, please email your Pastoral Manager.

Yours faithfully

Craig Jansen  
Headteacher  
Marshland High School