



**Seahaven Academy**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

#### **Term 4 updates: Return to School for all students**

We are finally arriving at a point when we can start to imagine a return to a school which is fully open for all our students again, despite the continuing lockdown conditions. We are certainly not back to any sort of normality in the way we knew it before COVID-19, but we are at least going to be able to offer on-site teaching and some of our usual school provisions again next week. This is fantastic news and we are really excited about getting being able to work with our students face-to-face again after this second period of school closure.

As you can imagine, the organisation required to re-open the school in a COVID-secure manner and offer 3 rounds of lateral flow testing to all our students has been enormous and very complicated. Thank you for your patience and understanding when you have been asked to fill out countless forms and read through pages and pages of guidance. We know that this may have seemed overwhelming at times, but it has allowed us to ensure we have everything ready, with all the testing in place, to re-open for students starting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Please find below the information you will need for next week.** We will be sending out a presentation from myself and other senior colleagues before the end of the week which will cover the same information. There is a great deal to digest, remember and refer to, so we hope that a written version and a video version will cater for all preferences for communication from us. After this week, you will be pleased to know that we hope to be able to slow down the pace of communication and return to weekly updates on Fridays and other letters on specific topics only as needed.

#### **Return dates**

- ✓ Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – years 10 and 11 on site, all other year groups will have Remote Learning including the CWV group on site.
- ✓ Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March – years 7, 8, 10 and 11 on site, year 9 will have Remote Learning including the CWV group on site.
- ✓ Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – all year groups back on site.

#### **COVID symptoms**

- ✓ Any student or member of staff who displays COVID symptoms, however mild, must stay at home, take a test and self-isolate according to government guidance.



**Principal Sarah Pringle**

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- ✓ It is very important that the absence is recorded with the school so that we can continue to run our Track and Trace systems as we have throughout this year to support the NHS.

### **Testing in school**

- ✓ Years 10 and 11 have been in for their first Lateral Flow Tests today and the whole programme has run extremely smoothly. We have had a huge uptake for the testing. Those who have not been able to come in during this week but are registered for testing will be able to start their tests on return to school next week.
- ✓ Year 7 and 8 will be coming for testing tomorrow, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March, with Year 9 due to do their tests on Friday.
- ✓ The second and third rounds of testing will take place during the school day in the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Testing at home**

- ✓ Once students have had 3 tests in school they will be able to start testing twice per week at home.
- ✓ Results of tests will have to be reported to both the NHS and the school.
- ✓ Full details for this testing (which does not start until all in-school tests are completed) will be sent out shortly.

### **Positive tests**

- ✓ Any student who has a positive test as part of the school or home testing programme will need to self-isolate immediately and take a PCR test.
- ✓ If the result comes back negative, they will be able to return to school.
- ✓ If the result comes back positive, they and their household will need to self-isolate for 10 days and the school will also ask those students who have had close contact with the positive testing student to go home and self-isolate. This will be the same routine as in the autumn term.
- ✓ The absence must be recorded with the school so that we can continue to run our Track and Trace systems as we have throughout this year to support the NHS.

### **Public Health advice for schools**

- ✓ We are continuing to follow the Public Health advice for schools in ensuring a safe and successful return to school for all our students from March 8<sup>th</sup> onwards.
- ✓ Much of the advice for March 2021 re-opening of schools is the same as for September 2020 re-opening of schools with some additional measures around testing for, and reporting of positive cases (see above) and around wearing of facemasks at least until the end of Term 4 (see below).
- ✓ The full guidance for schools to follow is here: [PH guidance for schools](#)
- ✓ The school Risk Assessment has been fully updated to reflect the changes made and is available to read here: [Seahaven Academy Covid Risk Assessment](#). If you have any comments or suggestions to add to the Risk Assessment, email them to [Term4@seahavenacademy.org.uk](mailto:Term4@seahavenacademy.org.uk)

## **Key control measures**

Seahaven will be supporting the return to school by complying with the government's expectations on the following issues (page 7 of Operational Guidance):

- ✓ Staff and students with symptoms do not attend school, but self-isolate at home
- ✓ Staff and students clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual
- ✓ Staff and students practise good respiratory hygiene: 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it'
- ✓ Facemasks are worn in school throughout the day apart from outside, during PE lessons or when eating
- ✓ Frequently touched surfaces are cleaned more regularly
- ✓ Occupied spaces are kept well ventilated
- ✓ Movement around the site is minimised where possible
- ✓ Social distancing is maintained where possible

## **Routines**

- ✓ School and contract buses will run as they did in the autumn term. Students must wear masks on school and public transport and sit with their usual group where possible.
- ✓ Each year group will have separate entrances and exits from school, as well as eating and outside break/lunch areas and toilets.
- ✓ Each year group will be mostly taught in one area of the school with exceptions for specialist lessons (e.g. Music, Drama, Science) and some other option subjects.
- ✓ Students will continue to keep to year group bubbles. Breaks and lunches will still be staggered.
- ✓ The canteen will operate on a restricted menu to start with (as in the autumn term). This will continue to be cashless, so please make sure students have enough money on their accounts for the start of term.
- ✓ Keep Up Catch Up will operate on the autumn term timetable for students to manage their independent learning/ homework. This will start on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March.
- ✓ Timetables for the Keep Up Catch Up and other after- school activities will be updated on the school website by midday Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Uniform**

- ✓ Students will be expected to attend school in full uniform, as they always do. The list is here: [Seahaven Academy > Information > Uniform](#)
- ✓ In addition, we will keep the option for students to wear their PE jumpers underneath (not instead of) their blazers if they need to because of the additional ventilation. This worked very well in the autumn term.
- ✓ Please let the year group Pastoral Leader know if you have any problems with uniform and we will make sure these can be resolved as quickly as possible.
- ✓ Students will need to bring a mask to school with them and a small plastic bag to keep it in when they take it off for PE, eating or outside. We do have a small stock of masks but will not have enough

to give them out each day. Please note that a recent COVID Health and Safety inspection of the school recommended that the scarf-style masks which are worn around the neck as a 'snood' are not suitable for wearing at school.

- Students will also need to ensure they have all the equipment they need for the return to lessons in school following their usual timetable. An equipment list can be found here: [Equipment list](#)

And finally... we know that although most students are really looking forward to coming back to school, others will be quite anxious after another period of lockdown. Please encourage them to respond to their tutor's emails asking if they need any support and don't hesitate to contact the year group Pastoral Leader over the next few days or on return if you have any concerns. The vast majority of students have been working extremely hard over the last 2 months, and we know that our school community works best when we have clear routines in place, and everyone knows what to do. If we add to this, the very kind and caring nature of our students, we feel very confident that we are going to have a great return to school next week!

Yours sincerely

Sarah Pringle  
Headteacher