

# Family Bulletin

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021



Each one of you has a special gift from God. Use it to serve others well. 1 Peter 4:10

Thought for the Week  
'It always seems impossible until it's done.'  
Nelson Mandela

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are so very excited to be writing to you about students returning to school from 8<sup>th</sup> March! The staff have really missed seeing your children and the joy that comes from teaching enquiring minds in the classroom.

As we've mentioned before, we are so grateful for all you have done to support your child's learning during the lockdown period. Thank you for working with us and adjusting to changes with such positivity.

In this bulletin, we will be focussing on just the key pieces of information that relate to returning to school as quickly, efficiently and safely as possible. Information is as brief as possible - key points are in bold - and reminders will follow via Facebook throughout next week.

Mr Burley  
Head of School



## **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing:**

The Department for Education confirmed on Tuesday this week that **schools are able to begin testing prior to 8<sup>th</sup> March**. Guidance from the government makes it clear that students should receive their first lateral flow test before they return to face-to-face education. Therefore, by giving all students in all year groups the opportunity to be tested prior to 8<sup>th</sup> March, it means that all students can return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. This avoids a staggered start to term.

We have decided as a school that it is safer, and more efficient logistically, to test all students before they have returned to the classroom. In addition, we want all students to be back in school on Monday and back in lessons.

**Consequently, we will be testing all consenting students on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. All students will return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – where normal school timings will resume for all.**

You will receive a communication from us via text regarding the time slot allocated to your child/ren, in a similar way to a medical appointment. For families with more than one student at WSE, if you would prefer for them to receive the same appointment slot (for ease of travel) could you please contact the school reception, via [office@wyvernsted.org](mailto:office@wyvernsted.org) or 01722 328565, to advise us of this. Please provide us with the full names of the siblings and their tutor group when you contact us.

**Students need to arrive at school at their designated time slot** and come to the student reception where they will be welcomed by staff. **Students must have a mask and be wearing it as soon they enter school.**

We will make sure that students remain socially distanced and will provide reassurance and guidance through the process. For parents who will be driving their child/ren to school for the test, you will be able to wait in the car park until they are ready. **We anticipate no longer than a 10-15 minute wait** and as soon as the test is completed your child is able to leave. We cannot allow parents to accompany their children inside the school building. Following the test, you can expect to receive an automated text and email from NHS to confirm the result, usually within 24 hours. The school will only be in contact with you if a positive result is recorded for your child and this will be on the same day of the first LFD test.

If your child/ren will be making their own way to and from school for their test, please remind them of the need to **comply with current lockdown restrictions** (remembering that the first phase of the 'roadmap' of easing restrictions does not start until Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March).

To allow us to test the majority of students over these two days we do need, wherever possible, students to keep the appointment time allocated. **If it is impossible for them to attend at that time, please inform us immediately by email** and we will make an alternative arrangement for the small number of students this will apply to.

Email [office@wyvernsted.org](mailto:office@wyvernsted.org) and ensure your child's full name and tutor group is included.

**We will be speaking to all students in a planned live tutor session on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to give them more information about testing and returning to school.**

## What do I need to know about Mass Lateral Flow Testing?

The government announced that all students will be offered three Lateral Flow Device Tests (LFD) on their return to school. LFD Tests detect asymptomatic infections: that is, someone who is carrying the virus but not showing any symptoms. The tests are voluntary, and no student will be asked to take a test unless we have a completed registration and consent form. **We do, however, strongly encourage you to consent to your child/ren being part of the testing programme.**

Please ensure that you have completed the Testing Consent and Registration forms in advance of the return to school, one for each student. We will not be able to arrange a slot for your child's LFD test without completed consent.

**If you originally completed these forms in January, you do not need to complete them again.**

Consent

Registration

After a student has received their first negative LFD test result, they can return to face-to-face education on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. They will then receive two further tests, at school, 3-5 days apart. The second and third tests will involve a teaching class being accompanied to the testing centre according to a rota. **We anticipate that students will not miss more than 1 hour of learning time for their second and third tests.**

After the three school tests, the government expectation is that students take a home test twice weekly. The rationale is that after 'assisted testing' in school, students will feel confident about performing a home test. We have conducted and processed over 900 tests on site since the beginning of January so we can safely say that we are experienced at guiding adults and children through this process. Your child will be given a home testing kit to take home after the third school test has been completed. More detail about home testing will be issued nearer the time.

Important points to note:

- **Tests on site are self-administered** but staff will guide students through the process. We will be producing a short video for students to explain how the process works and show them what the test site looks like to reassure them. They will be watching it on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March in the live tutor session.
- **If your child receives a positive result from a LFD test taken in school**, there is no requirement to confirm the result with a follow up PCR test. Your child and household should begin 10 days of self-isolation from the date of the positive LFD test.
- **If your child receives a positive result from a LFD test taken at home**, you are required to book a PCR test to confirm the result. Your child and household should self-isolate until you have either confirmation of a negative result from the PCR test, or if the PCR test confirms a positive result, until the period of self-isolation ends.
- **You are required to report the results of a home LFD test:** negative, positive, or void, to both the school and the NHS. Guidance on this will be issued nearer the time.

In the event of a student receiving a positive LFD test in school (this will apply to their second and third tests) we will follow the procedure outlined by PHE (Public Health England) regarding isolation and tracing close contacts. If your child tests positive, we will contact you immediately so that you are able to collect them from school; we will also provide guidance about self-isolation.

**Please refer to our [FAQs document](#) for more detail.**

Information, guidance, useful links, privacy notices and FAQs around LFD testing can be found on our [website](#) which is updated regularly.

## Health and Safety Routines:

When students return to school on 8th March, all health and safety precautions that were in place before Christmas remain in place. Examples include: separate year group entrances, the one-way systems, separate year group zones on the field and hand/desk cleaning procedures in classrooms.

If you would like to be reminded of the Risk Assessment measures, please do visit our website link.

The only change in health and safety measures as a result of government guidance is that **students and staff are now expected to wear masks in classrooms**. Staff are able to remove their mask to teach if they can maintain a 2 metre distance. Until now this has been an optional school requirement.

As we will all be wearing masks for a longer period of time, it is really important that you have a supply of masks at home that can last for a whole week. One mask is not going to be sufficient when allowing for the washing and drying of masks. Therefore, over the next week, please make sure that you have checked that you have an ample supply in readiness for Monday 8th.

**It is each student's responsibility to have masks and spares with them.**

Some people are less able to wear face coverings, and the reasons for this may not be visible to others. We are mindful of this and students who are exempt will be issued with a wrist band to wear in order that staff are clearly aware.

**Reasons for exemption includes (but is not limited to):**

- people who cannot put on, wear, or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- where putting on, wearing, or removing a face covering will cause severe distress
- if you are speaking to or aiding someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate

If you feel that your child is exempt from wearing a face mask, please contact Mrs J Smith (Medical Officer) [jsmith@wyvernsted.org](mailto:jsmith@wyvernsted.org) or Ms S Rideout (SENDCo) [srideout@wyvernsted.org](mailto:srideout@wyvernsted.org) who will be able to advise you further.

If your child already has a wrist band, they should continue to wear it.

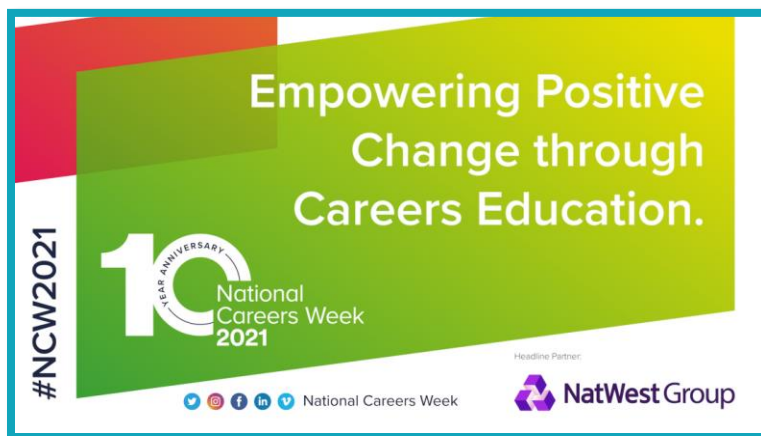
## Remote learning 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> March (Mrs Lee and Mrs Bellamy):

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, students will log into Satchel One to find remote lessons set for them that follow their normal school timetable (it is Week One next week). The live lesson timetable can be found [here](#) and has also been shared with students on Satchel One.

On Thursday and Friday of next week, there will be two days of **National Careers Weeks** Activities. This will involve a variety of activities including Loom assemblies and lessons, short videos from the world of work, quizzes, lessons and a virtual careers fair. All details and resources will be shared via Satchel One in the usual way with students. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to immerse themselves in new experiences and to learn more about routes into employment, skills and experiences needed and how to acquire them.

If you would like to learn more about careers education, post-16 studies and routes into employment, the school websites have full details about our approach to careers and useful links to websites and information.

For a comprehensive parent guide to support your child/ren with their own career journey, the NCW parent pack is a very useful guide: [The Parents' Guide to National Careers Week 2021](#). The Parents' Guide provides information you need to help your teenage children make the right choices to create successful futures after GCSE and sixth form. They include the most up to date information on topics such as apprenticeships, universities and revision techniques.



## Enrichment (Mrs Bellamy):

We are very pleased to announce that our **enrichment clubs will resume from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March** and will run until the end of term on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Enrichment requests received in December have been processed and allocation letters will be posted at the start of next week.

Homework club runs on a daily basis, in year group bubbles. All clubs will continue to follow safety guidance, including the most recent updates. We really look forward to seeing students participating in their chosen extra-curricular activities and we are already working on our summer term offer. This will be published soon!

## Exams (Mr Martin):

On Thursday, the Secretary of State for Education announced the government's approach to awarding GCSE and vocational exam grades in 2021. The government has made it clear that it intends for students to receive grades based on teachers' judgments of their performance, based on a range of evidence. Evidence could include assessment materials produced by the exam boards, coursework in subjects where it has been completed, student responses to tasks and assessments devised by their teachers (such as mock exams) and past records of student performance where appropriate.

Schools have been given the authority to decide what evidence will best reflect their students' potential. A robust quality assurance system will be put in place by exam boards to ensure that schools select and use appropriate evidence and that evidence is marked and assessed fairly and accurately. An exam board led appeals process will also provide reassurance that results will be fair. School grade judgments will be submitted no later than 18 June with a formal results day on 12 August.

You will appreciate that devising a system which assesses and grades students in a range of subjects and in a range of ways will take time. I know this is hard to hear but at this stage we ask for your patience as we develop the fair and robust processes needed to ensure students receive the GCSE and vocational exam grades they deserve.

We will shortly be writing to all students preparing for GCSEs this summer, setting out our specific approach to GCSE and vocational assessment and grading. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact [nmartin@wyvernsted.org](mailto:nmartin@wyvernsted.org).

We respectfully ask that at this time you do not contact your child's teacher to discuss GCSE grades and/or the evidence used to determine them. To maintain transparency and the integrity of the grading process these are topics which they cannot discuss.

## Year 9 Options Choices (Mr Martin):

**Please note that the deadline for Year 9 to choose their Year 10 and 11 curriculum is today, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February.** The form will remain open for anyone who has yet to make their choices and we are available to help with any decisions that still need to be made. This information will now be used to plan the curriculum and timetable for September 2021.

Subject teachers will also receive lists of students who have chosen their subjects so any necessary preparations for September can begin.

Please note that unless there is a specific issue with your child's choices (if they need to use one of their second choices, for example) you will not be routinely contacted.

Towards the end of the year confirmation of your child's timetable for September will be sent to you but, in the meantime, it is a case of no news is good news! If you have any specific questions about this process do let me know.