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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Returning on 8th March – Covid-19 Update

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your patience in waiting for us to share our plans with you to safely return all students to Chatham Grammar. We are keen to get students back on to the Academy site at the earliest opportunity possible, taking great care to ensure that the testing programme is conducted safely and effectively.

Planning is also in place for the same bubble arrangements and regular cleaning regimes to continue so we can keep students and staff safe at all times. We are still being particularly cautious as we recognise that there is still some way to go before the Covid-19 situation is fully under control and so the safety of our students and staff remains at the core of all of our plans for a safe return to the Academy.

We hope that you and your families are well and looking forward to returning to some sense of normality over the coming months. Thank you so much for your continued support in keeping your child on track with remote learning during this lockdown. We know that, for some students, this winter period has been a particularly challenging time and we intend to do everything we can to support the wellbeing of our students on their return to lessons on site. Well done to our students for maintaining such high levels of engagement during the last two months. Staff have also been working hard to facilitate these on-line lessons and students have responded very well indeed. We have received so much positive feedback from teachers about the efforts being made by students.

Lateral Flow Testing

To ensure a safe return for our students, all schools have been asked to offer students 3 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests on-site, 3-5 days apart (minimum 3 days and maximum of 5 days). During the first two weeks there will be a timetabled programme of testing for all students (consent is required for testing to happen) in all year groups across the Academy. Once students have been tested 3 times, they will then be provided with testing kits to enable them to test regularly at home. More information can be found if you click on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mass-testing-for-secondary-pupils-as-all-schools-and-colleges-fully-reopenfrom8-march>

Arrangements for Monday 8th March, Tuesday 9th March and Wednesday 10th March

To enable teaching staff to prepare for returning to onsite learning as well as having their own tests, teachers will be onsite at CG this Thursday and Friday. They will continue to provide lessons for students, however, there will not be any live teaching on these days.

As from Monday, due to the vast number of students who will require testing, and the number of tests that have to be administered over the 3-day period, students will only be attending for their test slot, once they have been tested they will be asked to leave the site and return home to online learning. Their lessons will start the following day. For example, Year 11 are being tested on Monday 8th March, on the 8th they will just be onsite for their testing slot, then return home to continue with online learning. They will start onsite lessons from Tuesday 9th March.

By using our new build and having two testing teams operating, we aim to have all students back learning onsite within three days. The table below shows allocated slots by Year and Personal Tutor group, please arrive at your start time, if you are early please wait either in the car park if you are arriving by car or outside the new building, social distanced. The main entrance is now open again and there is parking to the left and right of the new building. If families/friends are driving students onsite, please can we ask you to remain in your cars.

Our vulnerable and key workers students can continue to be onsite from Thursday and during this testing period as normal.

Monday 8th March

	Upstairs in the new building	Downstairs in the new building
8am – 9am	Year 11 Pt1	Year 12 Pt1 and 2
9am – 10am	Year 11Pt2	Year 12 Pt3 and 4
10.15 – 11.15	Year 11Pt3	Year 12 Pt5
11.15 – 12.15pm	Year 11Pt4	Year 13 Pt1 and 2
12.45 – 1.45pm		Year 13Pt3 and 4
2.45 – 3.45pm		Year 13 Pt5

Tuesday 9th March

	Upstairs in the new building	Downstairs in the new building
8am – 9am	Year 9 Pt1	Year 10 Pt1
9am – 10am	Year 9 Pt2	Year 10 Pt2
10.15 – 11.15	Year 9 Pt3	Year 10 Pt3
11.15 – 12.15pm	Year 9 Pt4	Year 10 Pt4
12.45 – 1.45pm		Year 10 Pt5
2.45 – 3.45pm		Year 10 Pt6

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR PRIVACY

From time to time we may use your personal information to communicate newsletters or marketing information about events, products and services offered by the school which we feel are relevant to you. We will communicate marketing information to you on the basis of "legitimate interest" due to your current relationship with the school. You will find further information about how we use your personal information in our Data Privacy Notice by visiting <http://www.chathamgirlsgrammar.medway.sch.uk/privacy-parents/>. Should you wish to opt out of receiving these communications at any time you can do so by contacting the school office via email: officeCG@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

Wednesday 10th March

	Upstairs in the new building	Downstairs in the new building
8am – 9am	Year 7 Pt1	Year 8 Pt1
9am – 10am	Year 7 Pt2	Year 8 Pt2
10.15 – 11.15	Year 7 Pt3	Year 8 Pt3
11.15 – 12.15pm	Year 7 Pt4	Year 8 Pt4
12.45 – 1.45pm	Year 7 Pt5	Year 8 Pt5
2.45 – 3.45pm	Year 7 Pt6	Year 8 Pt6

We feel positive about the potential for the mass asymptomatic testing of students and staff in schools as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer students and staff to have to self-isolate.

Consent

We hope that for everyone's safety, our students will engage with the mass asymptomatic testing programme. For your child to participate in the testing programme, we require an online consent form that will need to be completed by **Wednesday 3rd March 2021**. Tests will not be administered without consent. Please note, students over 16 years who are able to provide informed consent - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent or carer if under 18 years.

Testing is voluntary for all students and we can confirm that students will not be prevented from attending if they do not consent to the testing programme.

A separate letter will be emailed to you very shortly with details of how to complete the online consent form, together with further supporting information and a useful short NHS video to watch to help your child prepare for the testing next week at the Academy.

Covid Protocols for the Academy

Please rest assured, all preventative measures which were implemented back in September 2020 will continue and students will be required to follow the same protocols. These are outlined below:

- Attend lessons in their year group bubbles.
- Continue with social distancing protocols
- Separate entrances and exists for different year groups.
- Separate break and lunch times for different year groups.
- Increased cleaning regimes across the Academy.

Masks

Students will be asked to wear masks when moving around the Academy building but are not required to wear masks during lessons. Students can wear their own choice of plain face masks (no motifs or slogans) and they are also welcome to wear the face masks that were provided by the Academy. Students can wear masks if they feel more comfortable in lessons, we want students to feel that they have the freedom to choose this option too.

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Staff Development Day

We will be cancelling the next Staff Development Day which was planned for the 12th March 2021. Please check our term dates on the CG website for any future Staff Development Days for the remainder of this academic year.

We are really looking forward to welcoming back all our students and returning to the Academy. We appreciate your patience and understanding during such difficult times and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,



Wendy Walters

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