



The Matthew Arnold School

Part of the Bourne Education Trust



24th February 2021 Dear

Parents and Carers

Plans for reopening

First of all, my best wishes to you all. If there is one thing that we have learnt to appreciate more than we used to, it is that health and happiness are the most important things in life. My thoughts, sympathy and prayers to all those who have experienced hardship. That this is not just about COVID has been brought home brutally to two local families very recently. They will need time, respect and privacy to come to terms with their grief.

I promised you that I would update you on my plans for reopening schools, and I am in a position to let you know now what the timeline of events will be. In developing this timeline, my team and I have been aware of the fact that most students have not yet been to the new building, and will need time to orientate themselves as well as to reacclimatise to being back in the old routine.

Week beginning Monday 8 th March	
Monday 8th	Half of our students receive the first of their three on-site COVID tests. You will receive a time for them to go to the Sports Centre, as well as full details of how to register them. They will return home after the test. Live online provision will be adjusted to allow for this. School uniform not required
Tuesday 9th	Details as above for the other half of our students
Wednesday 10th	All students spend an hour in school on an orientation programme. This will be done by year group and we will issue invitations. No live online provision, but a wellbeing programme similar to those issued in the holidays will be published in advance. Uniform must be worn
Thursday 11th	Monday's programme will repeat
Friday 12th	Tuesday's programme will repeat

Week beginning Monday 15 th March	
All students in school receiving face-to-face provision. The third and final in-school test will be carried out during the school day.	

For the moment the above information is the priority. Overleaf, as a kind of appendix, I have given information that I imagine you may want to know. All of this will be repeated in more detail over the course of the next few days. I cannot tell you how much I am looking forward to seeing all our students again! With warmest wishes

Mary Gould
Headteacher

General points - in no particular order

1. Risk Assessment

We have fully risk-assessed the site, both in general as an ongoing operational education establishment, but also in terms of COVID-19 precautions. This will be published on the school website.

2. Testing permission

We will assume that permission given/withheld previously stands. If you wish to change your child's status, please email Mr Scott on lscott@matthew-arnold.surrey.sch.uk

3. Catering/Free School Meals

We will be returning to a full provision on Monday 15th March. Students will be able to use their fingerprints once more to pay for food at both breaks. Vouchers for students entitled to free school meals will continue during the week beginning 8th March.

4. Uniform

Full school uniform will be required, although students will continue to come in school PE kit on the days when they have practical PE.

5. Pre-preparation

Your child has been sent a pre-return survey so that we can start to address their concerns next week in online classes and wellbeing sessions. The more information we have, the better we can prepare them.

6. Timetable

We have designed a new timetable. This means that we no longer have to limit students to one area of the school, and also allows us to continue to focus on wellbeing and re-acclimatisation, rather than increase pressure and stress by immediately talking catch-up and lost learning. Details will be published, but we are including year 11 in this. The school day will remain staggered - full details shortly

7. Attendance

The DfE has made it very clear that attendance is expected from all children unless they are shielding or self-isolating. We will not be in the position to authorise student absence because others in the family are shielding, or for other unauthorised leave of absence requests. Please bear with us as we all struggle to readjust.

8. Student entrance to school site

We will not be using the Edinburgh Drive entrance because of the likelihood of poor weather. Students may choose to come via the main entrance or the pathway to the west of the site.

9. Visitors to site

We continue to discourage all visitors to the school site unless absolutely essential. COVID precautions notwithstanding, we are also still a construction site as the old building is demolished. Parking is extremely limited.