

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a good week.

Return to School – 8th March

We have been working hard this week after the Government's announcement at the beginning of the week about the return to school. I am pleased to say that I am looking forward to welcoming the whole school back on the 8th March.

In order to have all students return a week on Monday we will be running the first lateral flow tests for all students next week. If you have completed the consent form for a test, you will receive an email with a date and a time for your test. It also contains information about the process for the test and a short video which outlines how the test is to be taken. Please take time to read through this with your child. As we are able to hold the first test next week we are also able to invite a parent onto the school site to support their child with the test should they wish to do this.

The tests will take place for the year groups as via the table below:

	Year group	Year group	Year group
Wednesday 3 rd March	11	13	10
Thursday 4 th March	12	7	
Friday 5 th March	8	9	

Year 11, 13 and 10 should have received their appointment times for Wednesday next week. Year 7, 8, 9 and 12 will receive theirs on Monday. If you completed the consent form and have not received an email as highlighted above, please email Admin@richardhale.co.uk

Testing is voluntary, but if you have not completed the consent form and want your child to have a lateral flow test, please complete the survey using this link. <https://forms.gle/DiSw1a39dRSyARNR9> we will then issue you with an appointment time.

In order to reduce disruption from students being tested we will be setting work for year groups on this day rather than running live Google Meet lessons. This is so that students are not disadvantaged if coming into school to do a test and they will be able to complete that work at another time. Teachers will still be available on Google Classroom in their timetabled period for students to contact them about the work if they need support.

When students return on the 8th March we will conduct a further two lateral flow tests in school over the following week and a day before students will be issued with home testing kits to use from the 15th March.

When the school re-opens fully on the 8th March we will be following similar processes that we did in the autumn term such as attending school only if you are well, one way systems in

the buildings, keep the school well ventilated etc. I will send a detailed overview on Monday as I did at the end of the summer outlining all of these processes, most of which the students are familiar with.

In line with Government guidance we will be asking students to wear face coverings in lessons in the short term, as well as when they move around the buildings to help reduce the transmission of the virus. We will review this in line with the Government advice and guidance at Easter. Where classrooms can be socially distanced students will be allowed to remove face coverings if they wish. If you have any reason why you do not want your child to wear a face covering, then please write into Admin@richardhale.co.uk, so we can create a list of exempt students.

Thank you for your support with the return to school, it has presented a number of challenges, but as always we do appreciate your support with this.

Road to the Euros

It has been a stunning effort over the last few weeks in the Road to the Euros challenge. The students have managed to complete an amazing 16000km which has taken us past the final destination in Baku. This weekend is the final push for students, Sunday being the final day! Students need to upload their totals so that we will be able to award House and Year awards as well as individual recognition for students. The final totals will come out to you in my update next week on Tuesday.

School Trips Update

Y7 Bude – This trip will not take place this year and we will look to rearrange this for the summer term 2022. A new date and details about this trip will be communicated with Y7 parents in due course.

Y8 Bude – As this trip is due to take place when restrictions may be relaxed, we are unable to give a definitive answer on whether it will take place. We are awaiting further guidance from the government and are working with the provider to try to find a resolution, including the possibility of moving the trip to this autumn at the start of their Year 9. If the trip cannot run before half term this autumn, it will be cancelled.

Further updates on all school trips will be provided as soon as we have any further information.

Free School Meals

Students who are eligible for Free School Meals should have received their voucher for this and next week. If you have not please contact Mr Botheras on bt@richardhale.co.uk

Ian Hawkins

Headteacher

March 2021 Calendar

Wednesday 3 rd	Year 12 Parents Evening
Thursday 11 th	Extended Tutor Time

Wednesday 24 th	Extended Tutor Time
Friday 26 th	End of term, school finishes at 12.30pm

Weeks

1 st March	Week 2
8 th March	Week 1
15 th March	Week 2
22 nd March	Week 1
12 th April	Week 2
19 th April	Week 1
26 th April	Week 2