



RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Challenge • Support • Flourish

Stapleton Road Formby Liverpool L37 2YN Tel: 01704 879315

Email: admin@range.sefton.sch.uk Web: www.range.sefton.sch.uk Twitter: @RangeHighSch

Head Teacher: Mr M. McGarry MA, PGCE, NPQH

25 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well and it is certainly good to be getting in touch to outline our plans to have all of the students back to school safely and as quickly as possible. You will no doubt have heard at least some of the government proposals around lockdown measures being lifted and a planned, phased return to school from the 8th March.

As you will be aware, secondary schools have been asked to administer three lateral flow tests in school to try and help identify any asymptomatic cases. Essentially, testing will be carried out on all students who signed up via our online portal some weeks ago/recently. Thank you for your participation, the take-up rate has been really high across the school. This will take a few days/weeks to complete, the logistics are quite complicated as you can imagine.

We will run the first round of testing next week, starting on Wednesday, 3rd March in the following way:

Day	Session Testing	Year Group
Wednesday, 3 rd	AM	Yr11
Wednesday, 3 rd	PM	Sixth Form
Thursday, 4 th	AM	Y10
Thursday, 4 th	PM	Y9
Friday, 5 th	AM	Y8
Friday, 5 th	PM	Y7

Your child will be allocated a time frame to come into school for their test and will then return home following the test. You/they will be informed of the result via email/mobile phone on the same day. Please be assured that the DfE have given permission for the first round of testing to be done in the run-up to schools starting again from the w/b 8th March. Assuming the test is negative, they will then come for the second test as outlined below.

We will run the second round of mass testing over the first three days of the 'new term'. This will allow us to work towards everybody being back in school by Thursday, 11th March in a graduated way and in a way that ensures we have had two negative results for everyone participating before our full return. It will also mean online learning continuing for a few days more for certain year groups. We will again be running two testing sessions per day, one in the morning from 9am-12noon and one in the afternoon from 1pm to 4pm. Your child will be allocated a time window during one of these sessions to come into school for their test, they should make their way to the sports hall, they will go home again after the test and then assuming the test is negative, they will start school full time the next day. Mrs Donbavand will post details via Parentmail of the window to be in school for both tests and it's important to stick to that time as the tests are pre-registered with a date/time barcode unique to your child.

Day	Session Testing	Year Group	Return to school full time*
Monday 8 th	AM	Yr11	Tuesday 9 th March
Monday 8 th	PM	Sixth Form	Tuesday 9 th March
Tuesday 9 th	AM	Y10	Wednesday 10 th March
Tuesday 9 th	PM	Y9	Wednesday 10 th March
Wednesday 10 th	AM	Y8	Thursday 11 th March
Wednesday 10 th	PM	Y7	Thursday 11 th March

*assuming a negative test result

Remote learning will remain in place until your child's year group returns to school full time with the exception of the am/pm slot when they are expected in school for their first or second test. For children not taking a test, they should carry on with revision/catch-up materials during these testing slots for their peers. For the children of key workers or children with an EHCP, we will continue to offer on-site provision if required.

I hope all of this makes sense and we have liaised with other local secondary schools to try and ensure a consistent approach. Please note, your child will not be required to wear their uniform when coming in for the test but will require it as well as their equipment for lessons from their first full day back. The week beginning 8th March is a 'week 2' on the timetable.

As we then re-open, I do want to stress that, as always, everyone's safety will remain our number one priority. There are a few things to consider for everyone:

- In the event of a positive test in school, you will be notified using contact details we have for you on our system, please ensure that we have the most up-to-date contact information for you. You should then make arrangements to take your child for a PCR test by contacting NHS 111. If that test is positive you will be advised to follow the self-isolation rules.
- If anyone in your household has any of the symptoms, your child should not come into school until the person with symptoms has been tested. They cannot come into school to request a test in this instance- you must continue to follow the national guidance.
- When the children do come back in we will be once again re-enforcing the 'Hands, Face, Space' concept- please encourage your child to follow this advice.
- For the remainder of this term, it will be necessary to wear a mask both in the corridors and in the classroom unless there is a valid, medical exemption. This has been made a government requirement for the remainder of this term and I appreciate that this will not be ideal but I would urge everyone to play their part in ensuring the safety of all of us as we get face-to-face education up and running again in as safe a way as possible. It will be important for your child to bring a coat with them particularly on days when the weather is colder as we will be encouraging everyone to go outside at break and lunchtime to get some fresh air. I am hopeful that this will only be a requirement for this short, half-term period but again your co-operation and support is much appreciated with this requirement. Please contact your child's Head of Year if you have any questions about this.
- Our 'zone' system will remain in place as was the case before Christmas, again this remains a government requirement and we will look to open the school up to a normal timetable as soon as we are able to do so. Y10 and Y8 will swap zones as outlined to these students before Christmas.
- We have had a large number of doors/windows replaced at the back part of school so ventilation will be adequate and improved in all of the teaching spaces.
- We will start to re-open our extra-curricular and sports clubs as soon as it is possible and hope that these activities will help with positive, mental well-being and getting back to terms with being in school.
- There will be further testing using Lateral Flow Devices in the days following your child's return for those who have consented- essentially test number three. It is my understanding that the government will then be issuing 'home-test' kits. I will be in touch when I have more detail on this and how it will work.

For our students in Y11/Y13, I appreciate you will have on-going anxieties around your grades this year. You will not be required to sit mass-exams in the hall as would have been the case in a normal year. There are still more assessments to do in each of your subjects and your teachers

may well make use of some of the testing material the exam boards are going to make available. However, we do not know the final details on this as yet and Mrs Phillips/Dr Ainsworth will be in touch separately on this when we have the full guidance. Please do not get over-anxious, all of the staff will support and help you. Remember, everyone last year was able to access the next phase of their education, employment or training, this year should be no different. Your hard work, effort and participation will continue to be key in the coming weeks and months so please do your very best- only what I would expect from you at any time.

Apologies for the length of this letter but you will appreciate there is a lot of information to convey. If you have any questions, please get in touch and one of the team will get back to you. As always, your support is very much appreciated during these 'challenging' times. Hopefully we are nearing the end of it all and we can look forward to life being fully back to normal.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike McGarry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike McGarry
Headteacher