



Westbourne Avenue
Walker
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 4ED

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Following the government announcement last night you will be aware that schools are opening to all students from the 8th of March.

Since January most students at SCP have been able to access two days in school and three days of remote learning at home. From the 8th of March we will be increasing the number of days which students are able to access in school and most students will be able to return to school full time from the 15th of March.

We are really looking forward to having all of our students back in school together and we will be working hard to ensure that all the appropriate safety measures are in place to reduce the risk of infection as the numbers in classrooms increase.

The arrangements in school in March will be very similar to the systems in place in the autumn term, however the government guidance describes 2 additional measures which secondary schools should take.

One of these is to increase the wearing of face coverings both on school transport and within the school building. We would ask all parents and carers, where it is at all possible, to ensure that their child has an appropriate face covering for use on the school bus and in the school building.

The government is also recommending that all secondary age students take part in asymptomatic testing for coronavirus twice each week.

I wrote to parents in January to inform you that the school had set up an asymptomatic test site and was offering tests to staff twice weekly and was able to test students with parents' permission. At that time government guidance was for students to be tested on their return to school, this has now been changed to regular, twice weekly testing of both staff and students.

The testing will be carried out initially in the school asymptomatic test site, by school staff trained in the testing process. After the first 3 tests students can then carry out the testing at home, though in some cases it may be possible for students to continue to be tested in school with the support of school staff.

Students will only access testing with parental consent.

On the day of the test any student who is unhappy or reluctant to participate in the test will not be tested, even if parents have given consent.

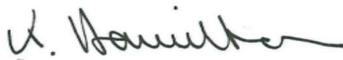
Participation in testing is voluntary and will not impact on your child's access to school, but government guidance strongly recommends that students who are able to participate in the testing programme should do so.

If you are happy for your child to participate in the testing programme we need you to complete a consent form. This will be emailed to you this week, using the most recent e-mail address you have provided to us.

Information about the testing process is available on the school website and school Facebook page and will be shared directly with you when we are asking for consent.

If you have any questions about the testing programme you can find information on the government website. School staff will be happy to talk to you and answer your questions as best we can, about testing or other aspects of school,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Hamilton', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Karen Hamilton