

## RE-OPENING OF RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL FROM MARCH 2021

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back to the school site over the coming weeks. In planning for the safe return of our staff and students, we have followed government guidelines carefully as the Health and Safety of our school community is paramount. We hope that the following information will answer many of the questions you may have about your return to school. As with all plans, these can be subject to change, due to national and local factors, should this be a necessity we will contact students and parents outlining any changes or adaptations.

#### **Face coverings and lateral flow testing.**

##### **1) Will students have to wear a face covering in school?**

The new government guidance recommends that we all wear face masks when we are inside the building where a social distance of 2m cannot be maintained. This means that it is recommended that students wear face masks during lesson time, unless they are exempt for medical reasons. Staff will also be wearing face coverings when they cannot maintain 2m distance from students. However, teaching staff may remove their face coverings in order to teach effectively, as long as a 2m social distance is maintained.

Students should therefore wear face coverings at break and lunchtime when inside and not in the canteen spaces.

We highly recommend that that students and staff follow this guidance in order to keep our community safe.

Please make sure that you take note of the correct process for putting on and removing your mask and for safe disposal of it / washing at the end of the day.

##### **2) My child is worried about taking the Lateral Flow Test, do they have to take it?**

All members of our team of trained staff running our test centre are aware that there are students and staff who are anxious about taking the test and will take the time to carefully explain what to do and to support students and staff in taking your first three tests on the school site. After this, students will be given tests to take home and do the tests themselves twice weekly before coming into school.

We are encouraging all staff and students to opt-in to the testing process which will help to keep our school and wider community safe by minimising transmission of the virus.

##### **3) Can my child return to school before their year group is scheduled to return if they are opting out of the testing process?**

We have planned a staggered return to school for each year group to familiarise students with the process of testing but also to ensure that we can maintain a consistent provision of remote education for those students in Year groups which have not yet returned to school. We ask therefore that students return to school with your Year group unless your child has already been attending as part of our critical worker provision.

##### **4) I have heard that households with children of secondary and primary age can now also get access to testing kits for the whole family, will the school supply these?**

No, the school will supply your child with test kits for their own use. You will need to order further test kits for your household. Please click on the link below for information about how to order these test kits for your household.

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm\\_source=1%20March%202021%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_source=1%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

**5) What happens if there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 in the school or a student or staff member starts to display symptoms in school?**

Please **DO NOT** send your child into school if they are unwell in any way. If they become unwell at school, they will be isolated and will need to be collected immediately.

Advice continues to be that if anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell.

Close contacts of any student or staff member who tests positive will be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days.

**A reminder of other health and safety measures in place.**

**6) What arrangements will be in place to ensure that the school site is clean?**

Throughout the day, regular contact points (e.g. door handles, light switches, taps and toilets) will continue to be routinely cleaned. All spaces used by staff and students will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of the day.

**7) How will the school promote hygiene routines?**

Students will be required to wash their hands on arriving in school and before they leave the premises using the dedicated facilities. Regular reminders of hygiene standards will be given. We would encourage you to remind your child about the importance of hand washing and staff will reinforce this. Students will be asked to sanitise their hands, on arrival in each classroom. Students and staff will be reminded of the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' measures to promote effective respiratory hygiene.

**In the classroom/ break and lunchtime**

**8) What has changed in the new guidance which will impact on our school day?**

Very little in the new guidance impacts on the school day itself. The school day will run with the timings of lessons in place from the start of the Autumn term, the majority of your lessons will continue to be in a single classroom/ suite of classrooms depending on your Year group to minimise movement around the site have a. Students will continue to have access to specialist rooms as before Christmas, and the increased frequency of cleaning will continue. Use of communal spaces (canteen, hall and old gym) at break and lunchtimes will continue to be staggered, and students will not be able to socialise between year groups, to maintain "bubbles."

**9) What are the arrangements for the first day back at school?**

Students will arrive at school on the date and the time indicated in your return to school email from Mr Grady. Students will go directly to the sports hall, where they will register for and wait, socially distanced from other students, until they are called for their lateral flow test. Once the test has been taken students will return to sports hall until their negative result is confirmed. They will then return to lessons and follow their usual timetable. If a student's test is positive the student will be sent home to self-isolate and will need to take a full PCR test to confirm their test result. Close contacts of that student will be sent home to isolate for the 10 day isolation period.

### **10) What arrangements will be made to ensure continued social distancing?**

The one-way system for moving around the school that was set up in September is still in place and tape marking 2m distance is on floors in corridors in the main buildings. We ask that you pay attention to this especially if you have to wait to enter a classroom. We are implementing some changes to students moving between classrooms on the top floor, Year 10 corridor. A one way system will be in place here too, which students are expected to follow.

On our return to school, staff will speak to students about the importance of respecting the safety measures in place. SLT will be informed if students do not respect these, and parents will be contacted.

Hand sanitiser is available in classrooms and in dispensers around the school.

Please note that due to maintaining limited numbers of visitors to the site, parents will not be permitted in the school buildings. Where necessary any essential meetings will take place via Microsoft Teams at a pre-arranged time.

### **11) What should students wear to school?**

Students should wear school uniform, in line with the school uniform policy. (The Government advises that uniform does not need to be cleaned any more than normal or with any cleaning products that are different to what you ordinarily use.) Students may wear a plain sweatshirt, PE hoodie or coat in addition to their uniform for extra warmth as we continue to keep the classrooms ventilated.

### **12) What should students bring to school?**

There are some key pieces of equipment that students will need, as we will not be lending any out. You should make sure your child has: pens, pencils, a ruler and a glue stick, a scientific calculator a protractor and pair of compasses A4 paper. We will be issuing exercise books, but these will be for classwork. Any work you hand in will be completed on lined paper. Students should, if possible make sure you have some A4 paper with you at all times. For students in years 7 – 11 we will provide a folder in which you can keep your day-to-day paper.

Students will be able to access the canteen services as they were during the Autumn term, no cash should be brought into school, please top up your child's parentmail account before they return to school. Students may bring a packed lunch. All students should bring drinking water with enough for the school day, water fountains are turned off but students will be able to purchase bottled water from the canteen.

### **13) Should students bring a device?**

If students are able to bring a laptop or tablet into school to access online resources, such as digital textbooks, and to submit work online should this be required, this would be highly recommended.

## **RH6: Additional information for students in Years 12 and 13**

### **14) Will extended home study arrangements be in place for Sixth form?**

Yes, extended study arrangements will be in place for Year 12 & 13 students. However, students will all need to attend their first day back with their year group in order to take their first lateral flow test in school, regardless of timetable. After that Year 12 and Year 13 need to be in school for lessons only, ensuring that they are on site for their second and third tests in school. Students may leave the site at break or lunchtime if they have no more lessons for the day. Please note that students will need to sign in and out at reception, further information will be issued about this. They should then study at home for the remainder of the day. Extended home study is granted to enable students to do school work, they should not use the time for anything else.

### **15) Do sixth form students need to attend every morning registration, regardless of home study arrangements?**

Yes, students must continue to register remotely if they are studying at home and with their form tutor in person if they are in school. Students must register at the start of each day.

### **16) Will Sixth Form quiet study areas still be available for students who need to remain in school for the whole day because of transport?**

Yes, these spaces will still be available to students but we will be limiting the number of students working in the Year 12 common room at any one time. Alternative study spaces will be available.

### **17) Will Sixth form need to complete a new extended home study form?**

Yes. It is crucial we have up to date records for all our students. A new form will be sent to Year 12 and Year 13 students in the coming days via Microsoft Forms that they will be able to complete electronically. It is crucial that this is returned as soon as possible and that students commit to their chosen plan.

Parents will be asked to sign a consent form, giving permission for their son/ daughter to leave school when not in lessons and confirm they know when their son/ daughter is working at home.

### **Travelling to and from school**

The government is encouraging students to either cycle or walk to school to reduce the numbers on public transport. Where that is not possible and a student has to travel by bus, face masks must be worn. Students must also wear face masks in the bus bay area when waiting for buses home. Some pupils in Year 12 and 13 will now be able to drive however; they should not be bringing other students with them, unless they are from the same household. There will be no parking available for Year 12 and 13 students on the school site. Students parking off site must park courteously towards our neighbours and within the law. You should not have your wheels on the pavement when parking.

If you have any further queries, please email: [rhsadmin@rugbyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:rhsadmin@rugbyhighschool.co.uk) with the title 'March 2021 Return to School' as the subject.

Thank you  
Mark Grady  
Head Teacher  
04<sup>th</sup> March 2021