

2nd March, 2021

To all Students, Parents and Carers of students and to all staff in the Trust

Dear Students, Parents/Carers, Members of staff,

Following the Government announcement that schools can re-open and all students can return to school from 8th March, I am pleased to assure you that plans have been put in place to facilitate this as safely and responsibly as is reasonably practicable, in a phased manner across both schools within the Trust.

We are very proud of the care and effort made by everyone involved to cope with the challenges of remote learning but we are now looking forward to the opportunity to return to classrooms for face to face learning and to a variety of physical activities. Whilst I appreciate that this period of time has been very challenging I continue to be impressed by the way that the school staff, parents and students have risen to the challenge and adapted to new ways of working.

There are robust measures set up at both Watling Academy and Denbigh School, to provide the availability of testing required by the government, which is no easy feat. Each school will contact parents, students and staff with detailed plans about their respective arrangements for participating in testing and for returning to school, including the transition to home testing.

As outlined by the government, school attendance will, once more, become mandatory except for those who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and have been asked to shield or those who are self isolating for a fixed period of time. Therefore, the usual rules on attendance will apply.

Schools will advise any students who are self-isolating or shielding about remote learning provision.

I would like to ask for your support in ensuring that all students wear face coverings in lesson, as we cannot guarantee that students will always be able to distance in a classroom setting by at least 2m. Students and staff will also wear face coverings inside the school buildings, except when eating or drinking. This will apply in all classrooms, communal or social areas and corridors. This will be reviewed in three weeks time at the end of this half term. An updated risk assessment will be available on the Schools' websites prior to 8th March.

Whilst I appreciate that some of you may have concerns about students wearing masks throughout the school day, this decision is following the latest DfE guidance and part of a collective effort to support the NHS, to minimise the spread of the COVID-19 virus, to respect and protect students, school staff and their respective families and to work towards a collaborative end to the global and national pandemic.

Lockdown has been a difficult time for everyone and the sooner we can all return to a more normal way of living the better. Thank you for your support and cooperation in adhering to this important step in your child(ren)'s education.

A link to the latest Department of Education guidance for schools can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely,



Andy Squires

CEO/Executive Headteacher