



2nd March 2021

Re-opening – 8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcoming Back All Our Students

I am absolutely delighted that we are welcoming students back to school. In my previous letter last week I provided details with regards to our testing programme for students. If you have still not completed the consent form for your child to be tested please do so as soon as possible and then ensure that your child attends their allocated time slot on either Thursday 4th March or Friday 5th March. The link to the consent form was sent by text. If you have not received it please email enquiries@sheffieldsprings.org and we will resend the link to you.

The good news is that as students will be having their first COVID-19 tests in school this week, they can all return on Monday 8th March. Please see the table below for your child's start and finish times for the remainder of this term.

Year group	Monday 8 th March onwards. All students return full time.
7	Arrive for 8.30am at the side of reception. Students will finish each day at 2.50pm, leaving via the side of reception.
8	Arrive for 8.40am at the side of reception. Students will finish each day at 3.00pm, leaving via the side of reception.
9	Arrive for 8.40am at the student entrance/exit. Students will finish each day at 2.50pm, leaving via the student entrance/exit.
10	Arrive for 8.40am at the sports centre entrance/exit. Students will finish each day at 3.00pm, leaving via the sports centre entrance/exit.
11	Arrive for 8.30am at the student entrance/exit. Students will finish each day at 3.00pm, leaving via the student entrance/exit.
The Bridge	Arrive for 9.00am at the side of reception. Students will finish each day at 2.40pm leaving via the side of reception.

If you are collecting or dropping off your child to school via the school drive, I politely ask that you remain in your car. If collecting students at the end of the day, please do not enter the school premises. If you are waiting outside of school, please wear a face mask and maintain a social distance from other parents. This will ensure that we can keep people as safe as possible.

Following the publication of the Department for Education's (DFE) guidance for reopening schools, we have now finalised our risk assessment so that we can reopen for everyone in line with the government's and scientists' advice. Key to this will be ensuring that everyone in school follows



excellent hygiene practices and that we are careful about the number of different people that students meet at school.

This will mean several important points to how the school runs this term. In particular:

- When inside school (including corridors and classrooms) students and staff must wear a face mask. The only exception will be if students are participating in PE lessons. If a student cannot wear a face mask due to medical reasons, please complete the Student Face Mask Medical Exemption form before students return on Monday 8th March. The form is available on our website. Students who are medically exempt from wearing a face mask will be provided with a lanyard and card to ensure staff are aware. This must be worn at all times on school premises.
- When students are in school, they will remain within their year group bubble. We will be avoiding any non-essential mixing of year groups.
- Arrival and end of school will be staggered to minimise the interaction between year groups. Students must only use the entrance and exit stated below for their year group. When entering the building students must clean their hands using the sanitiser stations provided at each entrance.
- Students will use the same entrance and exit each day. It is important that they arrive to school on time to ensure that they only mix with their year group bubble.

Year group	Start	Finish
Year 7	Side of Reception	Side of Reception
Year 8	Side of Reception	Side of Reception
Year 9	Student entrance/exit	Student entrance/exit
Year 10	Sports centre entrance/exit	Sports centre entrance/exit
Year 11	Student entrance/exit	Student entrance/exit
Bridge/ EAL	Side of Reception	Side of Reception

- Year groups will be separated within school wherever possible, so that students have access to a minimal number of classrooms and use of communal areas is strictly controlled. We will still be able to make use of specialist teaching spaces where appropriate and classrooms will be ventilated as much as possible by ensuring windows and doors remain open. The bubbles will remain in the same areas as of term 1.
 - Year 7 will be based on the maths corridor
 - Year 8 will be based on the English corridor
 - Year 9 will be based on the science corridor
 - Year 10 will be based on the art corridor
 - Year 11 will be based on the humanities corridor



- All year groups will have access to their own set of toilets that will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Students will have their own indoor and outdoor spaces at break and lunch times which will be supervised by staff. These are set out below:

Year group	Outside space	Inside space
Year 7	3G pitch	A2 and A3
Year 8	Tennis courts	Library corridor
Year 9	Main yard	School Hall
Year 10	Quad area	Dining hall
Year 11	Front of school area	Staff room

- All areas of the school will receive more frequent cleaning and there will be hand sanitiser available throughout the school. We will continue to encourage students to wash their hands regularly and promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach for any sneezes or coughs.
- Sport and Physical Education will predominantly take place outdoors and only approved activities will be delivered. Students will be asked to continue to arrive in school PE kit (no other branded sportswear) on the day of their PE lessons to avoid close contact in changing rooms. On March 8th all students will need to arrive in full school uniform.
- Students will be provided with a new timetable and we will start on week 1 of our 2-week timetable.
- Extra-curricular clubs and activities will operate but within year groups. We will publish a revised extra-curricular timetable shortly.
- Breakfast and After-School Clubs will operate but students will be expected to sit within their year group.
- From Monday 8th March, students accessing the Bridge and EAL provision will attend from 9am to 2.40pm each day. The Bridge bubble will be based in a classroom on A floor. Students who accessed the bridge bubble prior to Christmas will continue to do so. We have prioritised students with an EHCP so this will be a small group. We will continue to open alternative rooms for SEND students in each year group to check in with a member of the SEND team during break/lunch time if they are not part of the bridge bubble.

By making these changes, we will be able to follow the scientific guidance to ensure students are safe within the school. Students will be able to travel to and from school as normal, but we would request that, wherever possible, they travel with students in their year group bubble and practice social distancing. If they are travelling on public transport, they will be required to wear a mask.



We know that all students will require some degree of catch up after the disruption of the past few months. It is therefore essential that every student attends every day from the beginning of term so that we can quickly return to normal curriculum content. Please ensure your child arrives on time to school and is not late as they will miss important aspects of their catch-up work.

Attendance will be required at school and will be monitored as it has been in the past. Unauthorised absence will be treated as such and followed up accordingly.

A full curriculum will be offered to all student's subject to the following temporary changes:

- Food technology may operate some practical sessions if viable, but most lessons will be theory based.
- Music lessons will take place in the designated music classrooms wherever possible.

We know that students thrive best when they have routine, consistency and stability around them. We will therefore be doing everything we can to ensure that, wherever possible, school life is as close to what they are used to as possible. Thus, all the academy's existing policies and expectations on issues such as behaviour, uniform, attendance, and punctuality will be in place as normal with updates as required to reflect adherence to safety and hygiene measures. We ask that all parents support us with this.

The government's scientists have also set out what will happen if any student or member of staff displays symptoms of COVID-19. Firstly, it is essential that everyone – students, parents and staff continue to follow the NHS guidance and that they do not come into school if they are experiencing any symptoms. We would ask every parent to keep any child displaying symptoms of COVID-19 at home and immediately inform the school. Likewise, if any member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, please keep your child at home and inform us as soon as possible.

If a student becomes unwell at school with a high fever, new continuous cough or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home. We will arrange for them to be looked after safely, separately from others, until they can be collected. They will be expected to self-isolate for at least 10 days and arrange to have a COVID-19 test.

Should we experience a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our school community, we will work closely with our local health protection team to ensure the situation is managed quickly and effectively. Using NHS Test and Trace data, they will advise us on what next steps – if any – we will need to take as a school. We will be putting in place stringent control measures as per the DfE's guidance in order to minimise the need for larger groups of children to self-isolate should there be a positive case within school.



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In the event of students having to self-isolate they will immediately revert to the online learning that has been working well this term. We very much hope that this will not be necessary but, if we do, we are confident that we will be able to continue all students' learning from home if required. Once again, the support of parents in ensuring children access these resources will be vital.

Finally, we know that some students will feel apprehensive about returning to school after such a long time away. This is completely understandable and is something that we expect will be more widespread than one might think. We will therefore be taking steps to ensure that our pastoral support for each student allows for this. Pastoral support will provide time and space for any worries or concerns to be addressed so that each student is able to enjoy being back at school. To support this further, on Monday 8th March we have planned several induction activities with our normal timetable resuming from Tuesday 9th March.

May I also remind you that on our return, students who have consent will receive 3 COVID-19 tests before being asked to test twice a week from home. It is hoped this will break links in transmission through identifying asymptomatic students and staff.

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the past few months. Everyone at the academy is looking forward to welcoming our students back. We are entirely focused on making sure that in every lesson, every day, every student continues to learn and thrive.

Yours sincerely

Mark Shipman
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr M Shipman