



26th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Return to school Year 8

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your daughter back to school.

Year 8 Covid Testing arrangements

Year 8 will be tested on Thursday 4th March. Students will be tested and once the result is recorded students will return home. The time for your daughter to arrive is below.

| Form | Arrival Time | Leave Time |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| Angela | 8.00am | 9.45am |
| Bernadette | 8:45am | 10.30am |
| Catherine | 9:15am | 11.00am |
| Francis | 10.30am | 12.15pm |
| Margaret | 11.10am | 12.45pm |
| Teresa | 12.45pm | 2.30pm |
| Ursula | 1.30pm | 3.15pm |

Students will arrive via Crescent Road and will be shown to the Ursuline Sixth form Centre where they will wait to be tested in the Sports Hall. If your daughter tests positive we will call you to come and collect her. Students will need to be in full school uniform and bring a drink and a book to read while they wait for their test and result. Masks will be worn at school where social distancing is not possible. This will temporarily include classrooms until Easter. This is following Government recommendations. I recognise not all parents will be in agreement and I recognise the disadvantages. On balance however I am mindful of the well-being of all students and especially of those students with underlying health issues. The [Face coverings in education](#) document states - "The World Health Organisation published a statement on 21 August about children and face coverings. They now advise that "children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area." This links to the WHO resources for children and face masks at <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-children-and-masks-related-to-covid-19> Please email your Mr McSweeney at Cillian.MacSweeney@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk if you have a personal concern about your daughter wearing a face mask.

Students will be tested three times in all. The second and third tests will take place during school time on Tuesday 9th and Friday 12th March. Thereafter, students will be given the tests to complete at home twice weekly.

Year 8 will be registered at our testing centre and you will receive notification of the result via a text on your mobile phone.

Year 8 will return to school on Monday 8th March at the normal time at 8.25am. Students will have time to reconnect with their tutor and routines and there will be no homework during their first week.

If you have not consented to testing then your daughter will return to school at the same time as the whole cohort on Monday 8th March.

There will be no on-line lessons for students on testing day.

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Travel to and from school must follow Government guidelines. Could we ask you to remind your daughters regarding the social distancing and the use of masks on public transport.

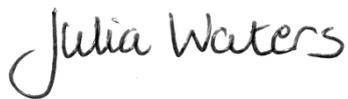
Gavin Williamson has written an open letter to parents/carers. Here is the link:

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/23/an-open-letter-from-education-secretary-gavin-williamson-to-parents-carers-and-guardians/>

If you have any worries or concerns please contact your daughter's tutor so we can give support. Thank you for your ongoing support of online learning.

With every best wish

Yours faithfully



Julia Waters
Headteacher

